Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 92 | TUESDAY APRIL 19, 2011 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Did you file your income tax on time this year?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Japan Fundraiser
Restaurant 360's fundraiser for Japan raises over $2,000.
LOCAL...Page 7



Storm System
A tornado-spewing storm system kills at least 45 people across the country.
NATION...Page 14



Wedding Trend
Bridal industry insiders expect Kate Middleton's gown to be copied many times over.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Food stamp benefits to be cut by 26.71 pct. starting May 1

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the CNMI yet to obtain additional funding to accommodate the growing demand for food stamps, beneficiaries of the Nutrition Assistance Program will see a 26.71 percent cut in the benefits they receive every month starting May 1.

The reduction in benefits is one of two measures NAP will implement for the remaining five months of fiscal year 2011.

The other measure involves placing all new and reopened cases or clients on a wait list "until additional funding is made available by the federal grantor agency."

"Unfortunately, the Commonwealth's request for additional funding cannot be made possible due to the federal government still operating on a continuing resolution," Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said in a statement.

"Until such time that additional funding is made available, our local office is forced to make necessary

See FOOD on Page 4

Man drowns while scuba diving

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The son of the B&R Auto Shop's owner drowned Saturday afternoon while scuba diving with friends at Lau Lau Beach.

Saipan Tribune learned that Seung Bum Yu, 35, was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center that day.

Yu was scuba diving with five other persons, including a dive instructor, when the incident happened outside the reef of Lau Lau Beach around 4pm.

See MAN on Page 4

CUC seen to refile petition to increase its base rates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is expected to submit again its petition to increase its base rates at the next meeting of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission in October.

See CUC on Page 4

Bridge Investment gets new partner for $120M investment

»Senators, Tinian mayor: CNMI can no longer sit idle to lure investors

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S.-based Bridge Investment Group has found a new business partner in China-based Sheng Jia Heng Xin Investment Co. for a total of some $120 million in planned investments in the CNMI that include a casino on Tinian, a hotel, a boardwalk at the Tinian port, a Tinian museum, and agricultural developments, officials said yesterday.

Four senators and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz came back on Friday from a trip to Beijing and Tianjin in China.

The five officials went to China at the invitation of Bridge Investment Group's Howard Li and Erik Wang and Sheng Jia Heng Xin's Jia Tie Liang to,

See BRIDGE on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and senators led by Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) pose with officials of Bridge Investment Group and Sheng Jia Heng Xin Investment Co. during their recent trip to China to witness a signing ceremony to memorialize the two investor groups' partnership.

USCIS issues its final rule on Form I-9. PAGE 3
Guam telecom eyes expansion to NMI. PAGE 5



Local

Recent underwater discoveries in NMI

Have you heard about the Commonwealth's newly developed World War II underwater historical trail? Are you interested in learning more about the trail, along with recent discoveries in the history of local marine sites, ships, planes, and other artifacts?

For the past several years, underwater archaeologists from the United States and Australia have been conducting research on underwater sites in the CNMI's waters. These sites range from post-colonial, turn-of-the-century sites to WWII sites to indigenous sites. This lecture will relate some of their more interesting research and discoveries.

Everyone is invited to a public talk to be given by Dr. Jennifer McKinnon of Flinders University, Australia, and hosted by the Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 22, 2011, at the American Memorial Park auditorium, beginning at 6:30pm.

McKinnon will be on Saipan to instruct local scuba instructors regarding the new WWII underwater heritage trail, which is rolling out in May/June of this year, and has agreed to lead this special meeting of APASEEM. For more information, APASEEM's local officer emails are jfurey@saipan.com; akaspn@hotmail.com; and ken_krammer0886@hotmail.com. ***(PR)***

3 arrested for domestic fight

A mother and son and his girlfriend were all arrested for fighting after a drinking session at their house in Koblerville over the weekend.

Arrested were Margarita S. Litulumar, 42; Faustino P. Litulumar, 22; and Gina Bhagchamdani, 37. They were set to appear at the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a hearing.

Margarita Litulumar was detained for criminal mischief and disturbing the peace, while her son, Faustino Litulumar, was apprehended for criminal mischief and disturbing the peace. Bhagchamdani was arrested for disturbing the peace.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that police officers responded to the Koblerville housing on Saturday at 4pm after receiving a call about a domestic fight.

Police learned that Margarita Litulumar broke the wooden screen door and screen window of the house. She yelled at the officer to arrest her son for beating up his girlfriend, Bhagchamdani, the night before.

Bhagchamdani, who had swelling and bruising on the mouth, said something to Margarita Litulumar. The two ended up arguing. The officer repeatedly instructed Bhagchamdani to stop yelling, but she allegedly refused to cooperate. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***





Medicon Travel Golf Tournament

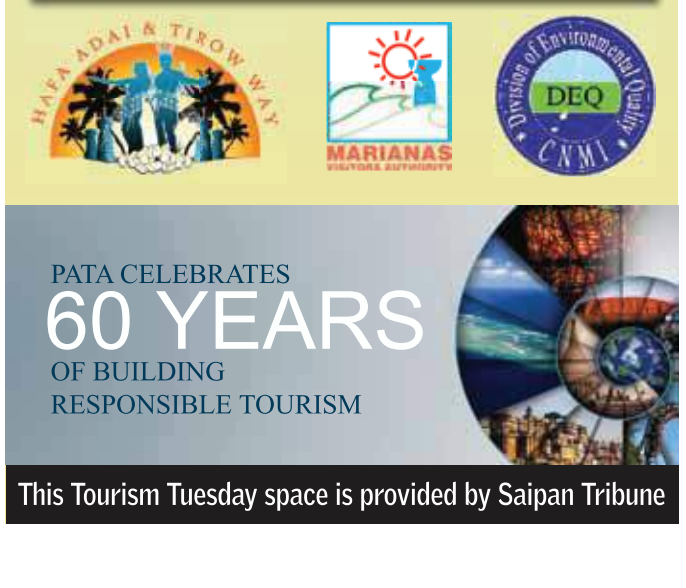


Despite some cancellations following the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in Japan, over 60 golfers from Korea attended the recent Medicon Travel-Seoul Golf Tournament in Saipan.

The tournament was held on March 24-26 at Laolao Bay Golf Resort as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's trade marketing to induce more group golf travel to the Northern Marianas. Additional tournament sponsors were Asiana Airline and JDX Golf, which donated $10,000 worth of golf clubs as prizes for the tournament. The tournament was advertised on 150 JDX golf store locations and in Golf Chosun.

Following the success of the March event, Medicon Travel plans to hold two more golf tournaments in the months ahead.





This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

USCIS issues its final rule on Form I-9 CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued Friday a final rule on the employment eligibility verification form, or the Form I-9, which is required to be completed by employers for all newly hired employers.

Form I-9 verifies newly hired employees' identity and authorization to work in the United States.

This rule finalizes without change a 2008 interim final rule amending the U.S. Department of Homeland Security regulations governing the types of acceptable identify and employment authorization documents and receipts that employees may present to employers for completion of Form I-9.

The final rule is effective on May 16, 2011.

Since the federal takeover of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009, employers in the CNMI have also been required to complete a Form I-9 CNMI.

This is a version of Form I-9 designated for use only in the CNMI by employers for their new hires, regardless of citizenship, on or after Nov. 28, 2009.

Last week, some members of the community thought that the USCIS had already issued the CNMI-only transitional worker regulations. This was not true. What USCIS issued was the final rule on the Form I-9 process.

USCIS, in a statement, said the main changes made by the interim rule and adopted by the final rule include prohibiting employers from accepting expired documents, and revising the list of acceptable documents by removing outdated documents and making technical amendments.

The changes also add documentation applicable to certain citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The list of acceptable documents that employees may present to verify their identity and employment authorization is divided into three sections:

- List A documents, which show identity and employment authorization;
- List B documents, which show identity only; and
- List C documents, which show employment authorization only.

USCIS, one of the component agencies under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said it received about 75 public comments in response to the interim rule, which has been in effect since April 3, 2009.

The final rule was published in the Federal Register on April 15.

Employers may continue to use the current version of the Form I-9 (Rev. 08/07/2009) or the previous version (Rev. 02/02/2009).

The Handbook for Employers, Instructions for Completing the Form I-9 (M-274) was updated on Jan. 5, 2011, and is available for review at www.uscis.gov/files/form/m-274.pdf.

AS CNMI ECONOMY SHRINKS

Fewer number of income tax filers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the economy shrinks, so is the number of expected income tax filers.

Elphidia Camacho, manager of the Compliance Branch of the Division of Revenue and Taxation, said yesterday they only expect 20,000 to 22,000 individual income tax return filers for tax year 2010, compared to some 24,000 in 2009 and over 25,000 in prior years.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos also said the number of filers is expected at some 20,000.

Camacho, who has been with the Division of Revenue and Taxation for over 20 years, said the closure of the garment industry is a major reason for the decline in the number of income tax filers.

"So even if it was the last day of filing on Friday, we didn't see a lot of filers rushing to file their tax returns. The last day was a smooth day for us," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The last day for filing the income tax returns was on Friday, April 15.

Camacho said they extended the office hours to 6:30pm on Friday, but only a few came in after the regular office hours of 4:30pm.

She said taxpayers can still file their tax returns.

For tax year 2010, the "Making work pay credit" of up to $400 is also still available for eligible taxpayers.

Other taxpayers either filed their tax returns early or right after the deadline.

Anicio John, of San Vicente, said he filed his income tax return two weeks ago to avoid a long line at the Revenue and Taxation.

"It took me only 10 minutes to finish it," John said yesterday.

Jonathan Felix Sabulao, 16, went back to the Revenue and Taxation office yesterday to correct some mistakes in his April 11 tax filing.

Sabulao said he only worked for a month in 2010 as a Workforce Investment Agency summer intern, but he is still required to file an income tax return.

"My mom helped me with the filing," the Kagman resident said.

Aida A. Camacho, of Papago, said it's only this year that she filed her income tax return after she said this is because her husband passed away in June 2010, and they used to have joint tax filings for their business. She filed three quarterly business gross revenue taxes only yesterday and paid a penalty, along with the filing of her income tax return. Early this year, a new law was signed requiring a monthly business gross revenue tax filing.

Other residents availed of the services of tax preparers who asked for a fee of $6 to $30 or more, depending on the annual income of the tax filers.

IMMIGRATION LAW
Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara
Available services include
- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081
Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan



House panel works to cushion impact in case of govt shutdown

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Ways and Means Committee will be merging two Senate and House bills seeking to identify so-called critical government services—such as those provided by police officers and doctors—that will be exempted from any government shutdown should a budget fails to timely pass again.

Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), however, said this is just a precautionary measure and the panel will prioritize working on the passage of the fiscal year 2012 budget.

After a committee meeting yesterday, the members decided to merge Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) Senate Bill 17-26, Senate Draft 3, and House minority leader Diego Benavente's (R-Saipan) House Bill 17-91.

Basa said the Senate bill is more specific in identifying services that need to be exempt from a government shutdown, compared to the House bill.

He said the committee will also incorporate the governor's executive orders specifying the exempt services and positions when the Legislature did not timely pass a budget last year that led to a partial government shutdown.

But Basa said the committee will not be able to finalize the 2012 budget until at least June to see whether the Commonwealth Health Corp. will really be privatized or turned into a corporation.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's budget submission for fiscal year 2012 is only $102 million, because the $18 million in estimated revenue from CHC is no longer included in the total amount available for government operations in anticipation of its transition into a corporation.

Basa said if CHC is not privatized by then, the 2012 budget may need to be revised.

The Fitial administration also asks the Legislature to consider amending the law turning CHC into a corporation, to move the effective date of the corporation to Oct. 1 to coincide with the start of fiscal year 2012.

The governor's budget submission includes $5 million as seed money for the corporation.

In related news, the Ways and Means Committee will also recommend passage of SB 17-56, Senate Draft 1, seeking to pay citizens and permanent resident workers at least the prevailing U.S. minimum wage when they work on capital improvement projects.

But Basa said the panel will further review Benavente's HB 17-173, which imposes penalties on persons who acquire and sell goods upon which the excise tax has not been paid. These items refer to those consumer goods bought at the troop store and resold in the community.

MAN

From Page 1

One of the victim's companions said they have already been diving for 30 to 45 minutes and were on their way to the surface when the tragic incident happened.

Jin Wook Cho, 35, a tour guide who was at B&R Auto Shop yesterday, told *Saipan Tribune* that he and Yu were together and had separated from the others.

While underwater, Cho said, he saw Yu take out his regulator and he appeared to be panicking.

When he tried to help his friend get to the surface, Cho said, the panicking Yu hit him on the mouth.

Cho said he drank some water and could not breath so he proceeded to the surface.

"He panicked…maybe he had nothing air [sic]," Cho said.

He said Yu repeatedly tried to go up, but the victim went down about five to six meters deep.

"I screamed for help," Cho said.

He said some people who were at the shore came running and recovered Yu's body 10 to 15 minutes later.

When they reached the shore, an ambulance was already there. Medics tried to resuscitate the victim and later brought him to CHC.

Song Hwan Kim, 35, a resident of New Jersey, said he and Yu grew up together on Saipan. Kim said he arrived on island on Thursday and invited Yu to join him and their friends to go scuba diving.

Kim said the water was calm, but the visibility was bad so he did not see Yu and Cho while they were underwater.

"I knew something was wrong when I heard [Cho] screaming for help," said Kim, who first thought there was a shark.

Kim said all of them who were already on the surface tried to help, but the instructor told them to wait.

Kim was also at B&R Shop yesterday with some friends, family members, and other members of the Korean community to express condolences to Yu's family.

The victim, the first drowning victim in the CNMI this year, was one of three children of B&R Auto Shop owner Sung Keun Yu.

BRIDGE

From Page 1

among other things, witness the signing ceremony on the two investment group's business partnership.

"We can no longer just sit here and wait for investors to come to us. We need to be more aggressive in promoting the CNMI among investors," Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

Hofschneider and Dela Cruz were joined by Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) in the China trip.

"The partnership between these two companies commits approximately $120 million in development funds available for investment in the CNMI," Hofschneider said.

Bridge Investment has already committed to a $50-million casino resort on Tinian, while Sheng Jia Heng Xin has committed to a $70-million investment that Hofschneider said includes a hotel, a boardwalk at the Tinian port, a Tinian Museum, and a CNMI-wide agricultural development.

The news of the $120-million investment comes at a time when the CNMI is in dire need of new investment infusion.

Because of external and internal factors, the CNMI's initial budget of $132 million for fiscal year 2011 has been reduced to $122 million, while its fiscal year 2012 budget is only at $102 million, from over $200 million just a few years back.

This also comes at a time when Neo Gold Wings Paradise, which earlier abandoned its casino plan on Tinian, formally informed the Department of Public Lands that it will pursue its project, this time with $1.6 billion in planned investments—higher than its original plan of $1.2 billion.

"Our visit to China was a wakeup call to the CNMI. We really need to focus on promoting the CNMI's unique opportunities. We met investor after investor who had no idea that we exist in the Pacific and that we are only five hours away," Hofschneider said.

The elected officials' China visit also included tours to Bridge Investment and Sheng Jia Heng Xin's projects under construction.

These include a tour of Li's $150-million Italian mall development in Tianjin, and Jia's $125-million residential development and Tianjin Antiquities Museum.

"Two major companies with ongoing projects worth more than $1 billion are teaming up to help develop Tinian and the other CNMI islands is great news for our people," Manglona said.

The Senate president added that serious investors such as these two companies should be "welcomed, encouraged, and given our full support."

The officials said they returned to the CNMI with plans to begin talks with the Commonwealth Ports Authority to find opportunities in which the two investor groups can develop what they describe as a "world-class" boardwalk at the Tinian port adjacent to Kammer Beach.

The Tinian mayor said the development plans include retail space, a hotel, cable car, and mini amusement rides.

"We need to be aggressive and focus on supporting investors who are serious and have funding to do what they say," Dela Cruz said.

The senators and the mayor said they will also work with Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to push the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to issue its transitional worker regulations, which have yet to be released over a year since the federal takeover of local immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

San Nicolas said investors need a "clear regulatory picture."

"Right now, as leaders, we cannot confirm to these investors that Chinese tourists will continue to be able to travel to the CNMI without a U.S. visa. We need to work with Congressman Sablan to ensure that the CNMI is given continued access to the Chinese tourist market through the inclusion of China to the CNMI[-Guam] visa waiver program," San Nicolas said.

Cruz, for his part, said the CNMI "cannot afford to lose the opportunities" presented by Bridge Investment and Sheng Jia Heng Xin Investment Co, which will open an office on Tinian.

"We also can't afford to sit back and wait for these kinds of investors to come here. … These investments will be beneficial to the CNMI, not only Tinian," Cruz said, adding that other elected officials criticize the China trip instead of working together with them and the Fitial administration in promoting the CNMI among investors.

The Tinian municipality reportedly paid for the trip of the whole team.

FOOD

From Page 1

adjustments to keep the program afloat for the remainder of the fiscal year," he added.

The statement noted that beneficiaries have already been informed of the imminent cut in food stamp benefits.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which oversees NAP, warned that the 26.71 percent cut may fluctuate "depending on the agency's availability of funds."

"Nonetheless, the [local] government will continue to seek assistance in securing the grantor agency's assistance for additional funding source to accommodate the nutritional needs of families," the statement added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in an email response, said the reduction in food stamp benefits will no doubt affect many families, given the current economic situation on the islands.

"This is certainly not something we'd like to see, but the funds is all we have by way of the continuing resolution that the federal government is operating under," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Demapan noted that the 26.71 percent cut was a rate negotiated by Fitial, the lone state grantee, from the original cut of 34.6 percent "to further minimize the impact."

"Any reduction in benefits such as this is significant. That is why we took steps to minimize the impact to the fullest possible," he added.

H.R. 1465

The Fitial administration is also pleased with the legislation introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to raise the CNMI's food stamp benefits to that of the national level.

Sablan said in a statement that H.R. 1465 or the Assuring You Uniform Dietary Assistance or AYUDA Act was in response to the decision to cut food stamp benefits.

The average per-person monthly benefit in the CNMI is currently at $88 compared to the average of $208 in Guam, which is part of the national program, said Sablan.

Fitial said the local NAP office will continue to work closely with its federal counterparts to address this ongoing situation.

"We also hope that H.R. 1465 will have the approval of Congress so that our people will also be entitled to the same equitable assistance as the national program," he added.

CUC

From Page 1

The new filing intends to show additional or new evidence that will prove that the rate increase CUC is seeking is just and reasonable.

Robert Torres, counsel for commission consultant Georgetown Consulting, confirmed yesterday that CUC will file at the commission's next assembly added information that will supplement its electric base rate petition.

"It would be CUC filing supplemental information to its electric base rate petition. The ruling was deferred by the commission pending receipt of the additional information—not a new base rate case," said Torres in an email yesterday.

Georgetown, he said, would simply review CUC's new information and comment on the effect or impact of any additional data or evidence.

On Friday night, the commission rejected CUC's base rate hike petition but approved a 22-percent increase in the current levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC.

CPUC chair Viola Alepuyo said that CUC failed to justify its proposed base rate increase but pointed out that the agency may return to the commission for consideration provided there is enough evidence that the proposal is just and reasonable.

She said CUC need not to rehash everything and may simply incorporate additional information for the commission's review.

Torres said the commission continues to place the base rate case under advisement.

"The decision is being reviewed and it continues to be reviewed/finalized by the commission," he said, adding that as soon as the commission issues a signed order it will be released to the community at once.

With the absence of a signed decision from the commission, CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae declined to comment on the commission's Friday night decision. He also refused to speak about the immediate impact the commission's decision will have on the operations of CUC.

"Sorry, but I have not received an official notice from the commission even though it was orally stated at the hearing. At present we do not have anything planned in the way of a response," added Malae yesterday.

CUC wants to increase its monthly electric base charge for residential customers from $5.60 to $7.28 and for commercial and government from $7.67 monthly to $9.97. The increase is intended to generate $3.8 million revenue that will fund the agency's stipulated order requirements, repair and maintenance, as well as operational expenses.

With the commission's decision to green-light the LEAC rate hike, the existing $0.28125 per kilowatt-hour rate will go up to $0.34426 effective April 16 this year.

The LEAC rate is broken down into fuel and lube oil element, $0.32691; volatility or allowance for uncertainty of fuel price, $0.01635; and regulatory and technical support, $0.00100.

The last time the LEAC rate was adjusted was in January this year when it went up from $0.2446 per kilowatt-hour to $0.28125 per kWh—a 14.6-percent hike.

It was learned that once the oil supply from Mobil Oil Guam equals or exceeds $3.55 per gallon or equals or is below $3.20 per gallon monthly, a new petition will be filed to adjust the LEAC in accordance with market conditions.

CUC facing penalties for open burning at power plants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is facing penalties after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency learned that CUC did an open burning of mixed industrial waste at power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base, releasing hazardous substances to the environment.

Michelle Rogow, EPA Region 9 on-scene coordinator, notified CUC executive director Abe Malae in an April 14 letter about CUC's violation of the stipulated order.

"CUC must stop all open burning, ensure that this area is added to the power plants 1 and 2 Workplan for assessment and proper cleanup in accordance with Stipulated Order No. 2 and the Joint Stipulation," said Rogow in the letter, which was filed Saturday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Aside from penalties that began to accrue on or before April 11, 2011 (the incident date), Rogow said that CUC may have additional liability pursuant to the Clean Air Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Rogow said the CNMI Department of Environmental Quality informed EPA that CUC conducted the open burning of oil soaked rags, used oil filters, electrical cables, oil-contaminated wood and mixed industrial waste on April 11 at power plants 1 and 2.

The open burning of these materials, she pointed out, is not approved by EPA or DEQ.

"CUC must immediately cease the open burning of these materials, conduct adequate and appropriate cleanup of the burn area, and properly dispose of oil contaminated wastes and wastes generated from its operations," Rogow told Malae.

She said the stipulated order requires CUC to immediately take all appropriate response actions if any incident or change in facility conditions during the actions conducted causes or may cause a substantial threat of a discharge or additional discharge of oil or hazardous substances or a substantial threat to the public health or welfare of the U.S. from the power plants or pipeline.

Rogow said CUC also violated the Used Oil Management Plan, which is part of the power plants 1 and 2 workplan, with the improper disposal of its oil contaminated materials.

CUC also needs to submit an incident report, she said.

Guam telecom GTA eyes expansion to the CNMI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A big telecommunication company based in Guam wants to expand its services to the Commonwealth and is now in the process of completing the administrative requirements of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

GTA Services LLC, doing business as GTA TeleGuam, filed an application with CPUC on March 22 to become a local exchange carrier on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The company is a full-service communications firm that has been serving Guam for over 40 years.

On Friday night, the commission adopted an administrative resolution requiring the company to secure a certificate of authority, subject to the commission's consultant review as well as public hearing for their application.

Daniel J. Tydingco, GTA executive vice president external and legal affairs, welcomed the commission's action, saying the company hopes for a favorable response to its application.

Once the commission approves its application, Tydingco said the company will immediately work to meet all technical requirements so they could start providing services to CNMI residents as soon as possible. Among these is the establishment of an office on Saipan.

"We believe communication is key to any economic development. So assuming we get a favorable response from the commission, we will complete all the technical requirements so we could operate and bring the services here," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Given the ties between the CNMI and Guam, Tydingco said, he is confident in the success of the company's planned investment on island.

Tydingco declined to disclose the amount the company intends to invest in the CNMI pending the commission's approval of their application. Its website (http://www.gta.net/) state that the company has invested over $50 million on network infrastructure in Guam.

In a week or two, Tydingco said, GTA will ask the commission to hold a public hearing on their planned expansion.

GTA's application has already been reviewed by the commission's consultant, Georgetown Consulting. It has recommended approval of the project, subject to conditions and requirements such as securing a certificate of authority and holding public hearing.

Tydingco said GTA will provide CNMI customers options and choices in their telecommunication services. Among the services the company plans to offer in the CNMI are Internet and telephone services.

According to its website, GTA offers traditional telephony, broadband, wireless, and cable services and has over 300 employees.

Proposed change in regs seeks to allow physician assistants to prescribe meds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Health Care Professions Licensing Board wants its regulations amended to allow physician assistants to prescribe medicine so long as they possess a Drug Enforcement Agency certificate.

Health Care Professions Licensing Board executive director Florence Sablan said yesterday the change in policy for physician assistants aims to update and align local requirements in accordance with U.S. standards.

There are an estimated eight to 10 physician assistants in the CNMI, several of whom are employed at Commonwealth Health Center.

Due to the government's financial constraints that impacts the hiring of doctors, Sablan said the board recommended giving the prescription privilege to physician assistants so as not to hamper the delivery of quality health care.

A physician assistant is a healthcare professional licensed to practice medicine with the supervision of a licensed physician.

Under existing policy, physician assistants are not allowed to prescribe medicine without the approval of supervising doctors.

The new regulation, if approved, will help alleviate the situation on Tinian and Rota, which both lack doctors, Sablan said.

Under the proposed regulation, the supervising doctor may allow physician assistants to order, prescribe, dispense, and/or administer medicine and medical devices to the extent prescribed in the written practice agreement. Their DEA certificate must be submitted to the board before a practice agreement is reached. A physician assistant may also prescribe no more than a 30-day supply of schedule III to V medications.

An applicant for licensure as a physician assistant must be at least 21 years old, U.S. citizen, possesses bachelor's degree as physician assistant or physician associate from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission for the Education of Physician Assistants.

The applicant must also pass the physician assistant national certifying examination administered by National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and requires continuing education for PAs.

According to Sablan, more updates will be filed for other professions covered by the board.

She said the proposed regulation for physician assistants is now in the commenting period, subject to board review.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW11-IFB-008

Renovation Of Government House #1354 – LIDS & Enforcement Office, CNMI Department of Labor

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works 9DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the **Renovation of Government House # 1353 LIDS Enforcement Office**, Capitol Hill, Mednilla Avenue, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 12, 2011 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. ***Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID of preference is claimed.***

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on April 28, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. local time at the Project Site, Gov't Bldg. #1354-Mednilla Avenue. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 2, 2011 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW11-IFB-008**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 05, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 05, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 05, 2011, and must be received no later than May 12, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 16, 2011, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 09, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid account must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the Contract price for contracts greater than $25, 000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the element of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold its second (2nd) Quarterly Meeting on Friday, April 29, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club (P.I.C.), Charley's Cabaret Room, San Antonio, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a. Welcome and Introduction
b. Call to Order
c. Roll Call
d. Adoption of Agenda
e. Adoption of January 31, 2011 Meeting Minutes

II. ACTION ITEMS
a) Approval of the Call-A-Ride Operation and Management Manual
b) Renewal of Trankilu Alternative Financing Loan Program MOU between CDD and CAMI

III. REPORTS
a) Chairman
b) Executive Director
c) Fiscal Committee Chair
d) State Plan Committee Chair

IV. NEW BUSINESS
a) AT Center renovation update
b) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
c) Disaster Preparedness – Governor's Task Force on Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities
d) CNMI Resource Guide update
e) House Bill 17-84
f) Developmental Disabilities now includes Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

V. OLD BUSINESS
a) Update on House Bill 17-43
b) Update on House Bill 17-36
c) Commonwealth Election Enhancement Project update

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. MISCELLANEOUS
VIII. NEXT MEETING – July 2011
IX. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council three (3) days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A. (Administrative)

IN LAWSUIT OVER MARPI POWER POLES

Banes hires another lawyer; seeks donors for attorney's fee

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney David G. Banes said yesterday he has hired another lawyer to help him represent the Friends of Marpi in its lawsuit against the CNMI government over the installation of power poles in Marpi.

Banes, who is volunteering his services to the Friends of Marpi, is soliciting contributions from the community to help him pay for the lawyer's services.

Banes in an email did not disclose the lawyer's identity. During Friday's hearing, attorney Wesley Bogdan was seen providing notes to Banes.

Banes said they still have a lot of work to do as the temporary restraining order issued by Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo is by law just temporary.

"So the real battle is on April 29th—we need all of your support for that hearing as that may determine the outcome of this suit," he said, referring to the scheduled evidentiary hearing.

Given the amount of work, Banes said he had to hire another lawyer to help out on this suit.

The lawyer, Banes said, has made a huge difference and has agreed to help "on a heavily discounted hourly fee." At the moment, Banes said he is paying for the lawyer's fee out of his own pocket.

"I'd like to continue to have him help out as he is more experienced than I am in environmental suits (and a very good lawyer who played a key role in the legal basis of our suit) but I cannot afford to not work on paying clients and pay out of my own wallet for his help. So any contributions to help to pay his (not my) fees would be hugely appreciated," he said.

On Friday, Govendo granted the Friends of Marpi's motion for a TRO to momentarily stop the CNMI government from installing more power poles in Marpi.

Aside from Friends of Marpi, the plaintiffs are former House representative Christina Marie Sablan, Suzy Kindle, Glen Hunter, and Ruth Tighe.

The plaintiffs named as defendants the CNMI government, Coastal Resources Management, CRM director Rita Chong, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao, Historic Preservation Office, Office of the Governor, Capital Improvements Projects Office, CIP director Virginia Villagomez, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Under the project, 43 power poles are to be installed from the Veterans Cemetery and Public Cemetery near Banzai Cliff to the main road and on to the Buddhist temple.

The plaintiffs said they just want to preserve the Marpi area from destructive development as it is an historic and scenic landmark.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said they will review Govendo's decision to determine how best to respond to the TRO.

'Military project on Tinian financially beneficial to NMI'

»Immediate $1.7M funding to help museum, display center

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI task force responsible for reviewing the historic preservation programmatic agreement for Tinian has determined that the U.S. military's undertaking is financially viable and advantageous to the CNMI community. It also indicated that $1.7 million in immediate funding will be available for the Commonwealth.

The U.S. Department of Defense developed the programmatic or cooperation agreement in consultation with Guam's and the CNMI's historic preservation offices and advisory councils in line with its plan to relocate 8,600 Marines and 9,000 dependents from Okinawa to Guam in 2013.

The agreement includes the construction and operation of a transient nuclear carrier wharf and the establishment and deployment of an army air and missile defense task force in Guam.

The CNMI task force, composed of eight individuals representing various government agencies, disclosed in its March 11 report to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that the agreement will provide immediate funding assistance of $1.2 million for the NMI museum and $500,000 for the Tinian display center.

The task force, meeting on March 4, disclosed that the Defense Department has also committed to developing an agreement that will allow continued public access to Tinan historic landmarks, including Tinian landing beaches, Ushi point field, and North Field.

The Defense Department will also prepare a training module for individuals doing work on Tinian in order to increase awareness and sensitivity.

Some environmental sectors had earlier opposed the programmatic agreement because of potential adverse effects on the historic properties within the national park system, including properties comprising the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam.

In its report, the task force projects that the military undertaking on Tinian will result in:

5 percent of business gross revenue tax from contractors and vendors;

10 percent employment taxes from construction workers; and

multiplier effect into the economy once construction starts in fiscal year 2013.

"There will be financial activity immediately from vehicle rental, housing, and subsistence expense during the archaeological data recovery and during the construction phases, which involves the firing range project on Tinian, the Tinian visitor center, and the NMI Museum on Saipan.

The U.S. military earlier disclosed that a four-range complex will be built on Tinian for the training exercises of military personnel.

The NMI task force is composed of representatives from the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management Office, Historic Preservation Office, CNMI Museum, Office of the Attorney General, special assistant for administration, Office of Management and Budget, and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Upward Bound students help in library sale

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Guidance specialist Hedwig A. Hofschneider, standing right, joins the students of the Upward Bound Program of the Northern Marianas College who assisted the Library Friends book and parking lot sale on Saturday as part of their community service.

Twelve public high school students from the Upward Bound Program of the Northern Marianas College helped out during the book and parking lot sale held by Library Friends on Saturday.

Guidance specialist Hedwig A. Hofschneider said the book sale was an opportunity for program students to put in community service hours required of them.

"We know that Library Friends needs volunteers for their activity so we decided that the book sale would be a great way to do community service," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

According to Hofschneider, this was the second time their group helped Library Friends on a book sale. The first was in December.

"We would like to bring our students here again and be a part of the next Library Friends book sale," he said.

Upward Bound is a federally funded program under the U.S. Department of Education designed to help high school students prepare for college. The program provides support to participants in their preparation for college entrance and opportunities for them to succeed in their pre-college performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. Upward Bound aims to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

Maureen Sebangiol, Library Friends president, said Saturday's book sale was another success since the community came out to support the group's fundraising activity.

Sebangiol said the magazines, which cost $0.10 apiece, were the most popular during the sale. She noted, however, that they may not have the parking lot sale next time since it only drew the participation of two food vendors and the Motheread/Fatheread program.

"We're encouraging everybody to donate the books back to Library Friends once they're done reading them. They can also donate some of the books they have at home so we can sell them at the book sale," she said.

Donated books, Sebangiol said, can be dropped off at the front desk of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

According to Sebangiol, proceeds of the book sale will be used to repair or purchase an air-conditioner for the Children of our Homeland Library since its existing unit has been down for a week.

"We didn't realize it wasn't working until we were informed about it. That would be a priority so that kids who use the facility won't be inconvenienced," she said.

Sebangiol added that some of the proceeds and funds they have will also be used to buy new materials for the library.

"The library staff said the only new materials they got in the last two years is what the Library Friends purchased for them," she said.

Focus group meetings ongoing for NMI heritage preservation

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Cecilia Lizama Salvatore of the Dominican University in Illinois is back in the CNMI once again, this time concentrating on conducting focus group assessment meetings for the Connecting to Collections 2010 CNMI Cultural Assets Restoration Education Strategy or CNMI CARES project.

An associate professor at the university's School of Library & Information Science, Salvatore arrived on Saipan last Thursday for the third and final round of CtoC assessment consultations, said Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales.

Gonzales said that focus group meetings have been scheduled with various stakeholder groups such as the youth, the *man'amko*, and the women on Saipan, Tinian, Rota.

"The purpose of the focus group is to really gauge and then compile a comprehensive, holistic approach based on the focus group meetings," Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune*.

Salvatore and Gonzales flew to Tinian yesterday for the meeting with the CNMI CARES Tinian Task Force at the Tinian Municipal Library.

Today, Salvatore and Gonzales are on Rota for the meeting with the CNMI CARES Rota Task Force at the Rota Public Library.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Gonzales said, Salvatore will be meeting with various stakeholders on Saipan, including the CNMI Archives, the NMI Museum of History and Culture, and the Northern Marianas College Library.

"We're working in collaboration with these groups to make sure that all the needs for a comprehensive cultural heritage collections preservation and training are met," said Gonzales.

The focus group meetings are important to ensure that the CNMI CARES project is community-driven, Gonzales said.

"It's for them, by them, of them. That's the highlight of the meeting. If they believe in that, they'd be very much into providing feedback for the project," he added.

Gonzales said that the next step after the meetings is preparing and finalizing the report to be presented to the Library Council.

"This report will form much of the basis for writing and preparing the bigger, larger, quarter of a million dollars implementation grant," said the executive director.

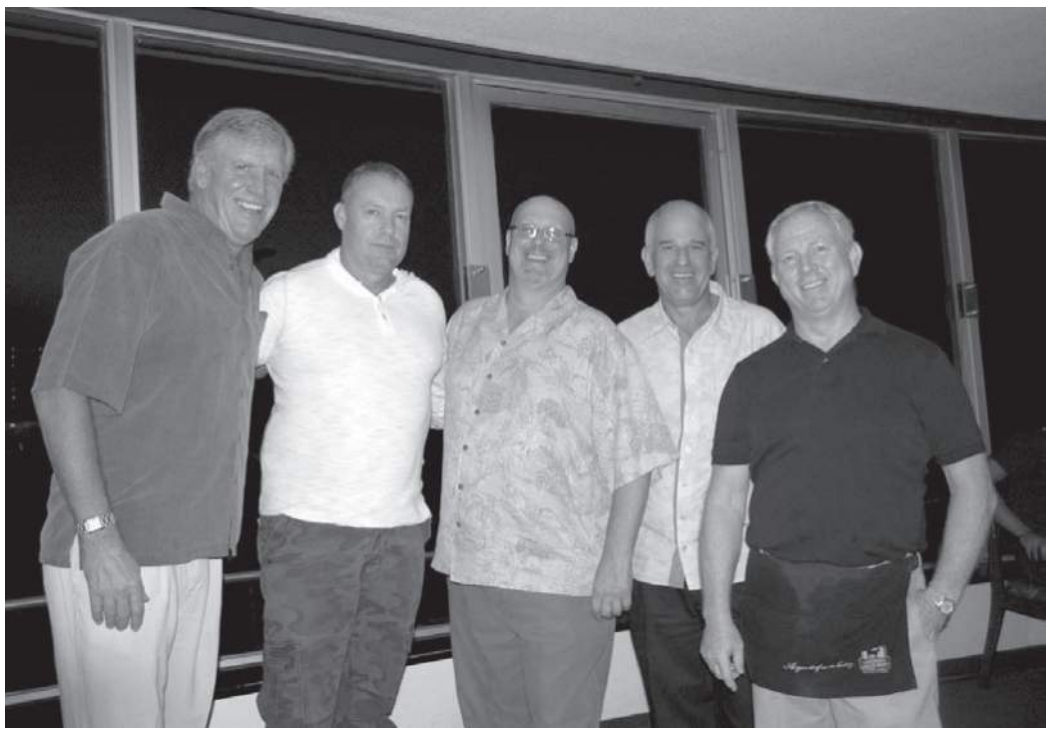
Gonzales added that they are looking at finishing the report by August to "have some lead time to prepare for the application for the implementation grant."

Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Studies, the CtoC 2010 CNMI CARES project aims to preserve cultural heritage collections and give the public access to these materials. It is a yearlong project that has two components: the planning and assessment phase and the implementation phase.

CNMI's state library, through the Library Council, was awarded $40,000, the maximum grant for the planning and assessment phase.

JKPL wants to apply for the $250,000 maximum amount of the implementation phase grant, the deadline of application for which is December every year.

Restaurant 360 raises over $2,000 for Japan relief efforts



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The men behind 360. From left, Robert Hudkins, Erik Van der Maas, Jim Arenovski, John Jones, and Steve Nutting.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Restaurant 360 manager Jim Arenovski, left, hands the roundtrip ticket prize to Pacific Islands Club general manager Kieran Daly, center, during the cocktail party and raffle fundraiser for Japan relief efforts last April 16. Looking on is triathlete Lewie Tenorio who won a Motorola phone from IT&E.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Restaurant 360's "Japan Tsunami Relief Effort: Cocktail Party and Raffle Fundraiser" held Saturday night atop Marianas Business Plaza raised over $2,000 from raffle tickets sold at the event.

For a cover charge of $10, guests were treated to savory hors d'oeuvres and a raffle ticket that gave each one a chance to win prizes. Additional raffle tickets were sold for $5 each.

Restaurant manager Jim Arenovski said in an interview that the event turnout exceeded their expectations.

"We're very happy that the community came out to support a good cause. We're happy that our customers showed their support for this event," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Arenovski said the community should think about all those who were affected by the earthquake and tsunami devastation in Japan who have lost so much and still continue to suffer because of cold weather and the ongoing nuclear crisis in their nation.

"I think we're very fortunate to be complaining about our situation economically. To set things right, we need to think about our friends from Japan," he said.

According to Arenovski, the friendship between the CNMI and Japan dates back to many years.

"They come to our place for a vacation. They're really a part of our community and we need to make them feel that we are concerned about them and that we care," he said.

Aside from the raffle ticket proceeds, Arenovski said they will also donate 10 percent of food tabs and $1 for every alcoholic beverage purchased that night.

The donation from the food and beverage sales will be calculated and announced within the week.

"Although this donation is just a mere drop in the bucket, it's something that they won't forget in this time of need," he said.

Arenovski said the total donation will be divided and handed to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, which will endorse it to the Japan Red Cross, and the NMI Japan Disaster Relief, which is headed by various Japanese on island.

Raffle winners

Guests won several prizes, including 360 gift certificates, Shell gas certificates from IP&E, water park passes and overnight stay at Pacific Islands Club, and cell phones from IT&E and Docomo.

Kieran Daly, PIC general manager, was very happy to be one of two winners of a roundtrip ticket to Guam.

"It's great that 360 Restaurant put this all together for our friends in Japan," said Daly who bought $50 worth of raffle tickets. "They supported the CNMI for many years and it's our turn to show our support for them. We want them to know that we're very concerned and make sure they return to the CNMI soon."

Other winners were Richard Pierce, who won Shell gas certificates; Lewie Tenorio, Motorola W175 phone; Jaime Martinez, major tune up from Saipan Bike Pro; and Tom Cotton, roundtrip ticket to Guam.

Other winners will be notified by phone or you may call 234-3600.

27 persons rescued from burning Japanese ship

APRA HARBOR, Guam—U.S. and Japan Coast Guard rescue crews coordinated the rescue of 27 fishermen after a severe shipboard fire forced them to abandon ship 540 miles east of Guam, Sunday.

Japan Coast Guard received notification from the owners of the fishing vessel Daichi Shoei Maru reporting that their vessel was on fire and the crew was contemplating abandoning ship.

A request from the Japan Coast Guard was relayed to Coast Guard rescue coordinators at Sector Guam for assistance as the vessel in distress was within their area of response. The Coast Guard cutter *Washington*, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Guam, and a Coast Guard C-130 Hercules airplane from Air Station Barbers Point Hawaii were launched to render assistance. Japan Coast Guard also launched an aircraft to search for the vessel.

Coast Guard rescue coordinators located a merchant vessel about 115 miles from the *Daichi Shoei Maru* and radioed a request to assist. The master of the 527-foot Panamanian-flagged cargo ship *South Islander* responded to the distress call and diverted.

"Fortunately, the *Daichi Shoei Maru* was equipped with an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon that allowed Coast Guard Sector Guam to continually monitor the position of the distressed vessel," said Leif Wigman-Nilsson, Coast Guard Sector Guam search and rescue controller.

Using the position provided by the EPIRB, the Japan Coast Guard aircrew was able to locate the burning vessel and contact the crew who were still aboard.

At 7:45pm Daichi Shoei Maru's crew abandoned ship into life rafts moments before the vessel suffered several explosions that left *Daichi Shoei Maru* severely burning. The crew was at a safe distance from the burning vessel when the *South Islander* arrived at 8:10pm.

All 27 personnel were safely transferred to the *South Islander* without incident or injury. Crewmembers are being taken to the South Islander's next port of call in the Solomon Islands. ***(USCG)***

Public library opens today but closed on Good Friday

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In observance of Good Friday, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on April 22, according to executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales.

To make up for this closing, Gonzales said the public library will open today, April 19, from 9am to 5pm.

"We are usually closed on Tuesdays due to austerity but we will open [today] to accommodate kids who are on vacation and would like to avail library services," Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune*.

The executive director added that the library management and staff would like to join the rest of the Catholic faithful on island in observance of the religious holiday.

Good Friday, also known as Holy Friday, is observed during Holy Week to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.

JUAN R. CAMACHO
AND DIANNA L. CAMACHO
P.O. BOX 500251
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TELEPHONE NO. 286-8185

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR:	) FCD GU) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 11-0141)
LEIJUANA LEONY LIMES CAMACHO	) **NOTICE OF**) **HEARING**
Minor Child	)
by	)
JOSEPH S. CAMACHO JR. and NADIA T. CAMACHO Petitioners.	))

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named minor child by Joseph Jr. and Nadia Camacho, petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Robert C. Naraja on the 12th day of May, 2011 at 10am or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0097**
CLARA TAMAN CAMACHO, Deceased.	**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Rosario C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Clara Taman Camacho, deceased; and that the said petition will be heard by the Court on Tuesday, **May 31, 2011**, at the hour of **1:30 pm**.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Clara Taman Camacho, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they should file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED this 14th day of April, 2011.

/s/ Clerk of Court

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **April 20**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **April 20**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **April 20**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

IT&E Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau/Tinian/Rota Office– up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Importance of libraries in John Gonzales LIVE

"Celebrating PSS schools Libraries Month & the Importance of Libraries" will be the topic in this week's *John Gonzales LIVE* show.

Lynne Michael, librarian of Sinapalo Elementary School; Sudi Napalan, librarian of Saipan Southern High School; and Julian Hofschneider, principal of Tinian Junior Senior High will be at the show.

John Gonzales Live airs Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Sunday and Monday, all from 7pm to 8 pm on KSPN Channel 2. The show also rebroadcasts worldwide on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com) on Wednesday at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday at 11pm Chamorro Standard Time in the CNMI and Guam).

Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzales@pticom.com). ***(PR)***

Trivia Tuesday tonight

Bring friends and come on down to Trivia Tuesday tonight and every Tuesday night at Wild Bill's Bar & Grill in Garapan. Admission is free, the fun is priceless, and the winning teams walk away with glory and gift certificates from Wild Bill's!

The Commonwealth Cancer Association will be selling $1 raffle tickets and giving away prizes. Tonight's raffle prizes include free Zumba dance classes from Gold's Gym, delicious ice cream and frozen yogurt from Scoops, trendy T-shirts by Salbahe, car sunshades from IT&E, Eat Right with Color kitchen giveaways, and more! All raffle proceeds benefit the Commonwealth Cancer Association's survivor support services and cancer outreach programs.

To donate a raffle prize or for more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Volunteers needed for HPV, cervical cancer focus group

The Department of Public Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program requests the assistance of 20 volunteers (10 women and 10 men) to participate in a focus group discussion and survey that will cover the human papillomavirus vaccine and cervical cancer screening in the CNMI.

The CCC program is specifically seeking individuals who fit any of the following three categories:

- Women who are 21 - 65 years of age;
- Male partners of women ages 21-65 years;
- Parents or guardians of girls (ages 9-18) who are eligible to receive the HPV vaccination

Names and responses of all focus group participants will be kept confidential. This is a voluntary project; lunch and gas vouchers will be provided to all participants, however. The focus group discussion is scheduled for April 27, 2011 from 8:30am to 12pm at the Department of Public Health, Secretary's Conference Room.

For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, contact the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. Interested individuals are asked to register for the focus group discussion on or before April 25, 2011. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on April 25

The Commonwealth Cancer Association board of directors will be convening its next monthly meeting on Monday, April 25, 2011, 4:30pm at the Department of Public Health Secretary's conference room. The agenda will include reports from the program manager and board committees, including updates on the CCA's breast and cervical cancer volunteer outreach training project. All CCA board meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Support meeting for cancer survivors, caregivers

All cancer survivors, their family members, and other caregivers are invited to the next support meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan starting at 5:30pm. This month's support meeting will begin with a presentation on the rights of cancer survivors and caregivers in the workplace, by Tom Thornburgh, project specialist for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. NMPASI attorney Jeanne Rayphand will also be present to answer questions.

The NMPASI presentation will be followed by breakout discussions in two groups: survivors and caregivers.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org, or call the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. ***(CCA)***

Team Aschoscho to host MMAC softball tournament

Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Aschoscho will be hosting a co-ed softball tournament fundraiser from April 30 to May 1, 2011, at the Capital Hill baseball field. The requested donation to register is $150, and the deadline to register is April 29, 2011. All proceeds will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer. For more information, contact Jerome delos Santos at 989-7456, or Nadia Saralu at 288-1458.

The Aschoscho softball tournament is one of a series of fundraising events hosted by teams of volunteers and leading up to the main Marianas March Against Cancer event, which is scheduled for May 13-14, 2011 at Hopwood Junior High School. The Marianas March Against Cancer is the signature fundraising program for the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a nonprofit organization that provides support services for cancer patients and survivors, and promotes cancer awareness, screening, and risk reduction through community outreach programs and partnerships. ***(CCA)***

Reminder to CNMI cancer survivors

All CNMI cancer survivors are asked to contact Team Courage chair Nora Sablan at FHP Clinic to register for the Marianas March Against Cancer Survivors Dinner on May 13, 2011 at Hopwood. Call Nora at 235-0994 or email norasablan@gmail.com to confirm attendance. ***(CCA)***



Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The individual in last week's column was identified as Carlos A. Torres. Identified by Connie Torres, Chong Torres, Tomas Dela Cruz, Ramon Agulto, Cecilia Lisua, and Manny Manahane.



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 19, 1999

CUC eyes audit on project costs

Relieved over settlement of dispute on the stalled sewer project in southern Saipan, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation now wants to conduct financial audit on the initial contract before resuming its much-delayed construction. There is also no schedule yet as to when completion of the new sewer line system will start again after its contractor, Pacific Drilling Ltd., has agreed on the $750,000 settlement on the additional costs incurred after the project was halted in May last year. CUC is expected to review the entire project based on its specifications before the government-owned utility firm takes over its construction, according to Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez.

Scholarship board member asks for fair assistance

Scholarship board member Roman Benavente asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to suspend the two statutory scholarships and instead equitably distribute the identified funding to all qualified students. According to Benavente, both suspensions will allow the government to extend $2,500 to each qualified student regardless of degree and standing. Under Public Law 11-77, recipients of the Full Scholarship will receive 15,000 each year, which would cover for tuition, text books, board, lodging and other expenses. While, students pursuing the degree in education will continue to receive $12,000 as their Teacher Scholarship grant.

April 19, 2000

Mandarin Air signing ceremony, CNMI Expo a success

A business agreement between executives of the Taipei-based Mandarin Airlines and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has been formalized last April 11, 2000. The business agreement guarantees charter flights from Taipei to the Northern Marianas, which is expected to bring casino enthusiasts from Taiwan to CNMI's lone gaming facility. A kin to the signing ceremonies held in Taipei was a tourism and cultural exposition featuring sights and sounds of the Northern Marianas. The exposition was participated in by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Submarine Sirena, GIT Tours, Dragon Phoenix Travel, Empress Tours and Services, Big Boyz 11 Marine and Mandarin Airlines.

NMIRF asks two ex-CPA officials to return excess benefits

The Northern Mariana Island Retirement Fund has asked two former officials of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to return the early retirement benefits improperly paid to them. NMI Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres said he has sent a letter to former CPA Executive Director Carlos Shoda and ex-Chief Security Joseph A. Reyes seeking the payment of close to $127,000 in excess retirement benefits. Both Mr. Shoda and Mr. Reyes have yet to respond to the Fund's demand. The Fund's decision to recover the amount was based on the findings and recommendations drawn up by the Office of the Public Auditor which showed that the ex-CPA officials inflated their leave and compensatory time credits to receive higher pension.

April 19, 2001

NMI gets good news from 2 US congressional staff

The Commonwealth yesterday received good news from two visiting United States congressional staff who informed legislators that the CNMI's fight against federal takeover enjoys a strong support in Washington. Tony Babauta of the House committee on resources and Kimo Kaloi, a member of US Congressman James Hansen's staff, during a panel discussion at the CNMI House of Representatives yesterday, said a good number of legislators in Washington are aware of the economic possibilities faced by the CNMI once federalization pushes through.

Volunteer lawyers to be recognized

The CNMI Bar Association and the Marianas Legal Services Corporation are planning to commend lawyers who provided free legal services to low-income residents in the Commonwealth. CNMI Bar representative to the MLSC Board, Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita said the volunteer lawyers would be honored at the monthly Bar Association meeting which will be held on April 19 at the Hyatt Regency-Saipan. Ms. Blanco-Maratita said the purpose of the luncheon is to recognize who participated in the "Gimme Five" program, a special project jointly sponsored by the CNMI Bar Association and MLSC.

Dance party launches Zumba classes at Gold's Gym

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zumba dance party organized by Gold's Gym Saipan on April 15 at GIG had a very good turnout, according to general manager Jackie Van Dam.

"About 40 people came and were ready to dance. They were excited about Zumba and learning the steps," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Zumba is the name of the Latin-inspired dance and fitness program that blends Tropical/salsa and Cumbia with dance. It was created by Colombian choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez.

Since its inception, the Zumba program has grown to become the world's largest and most successful dance-fitness program offered through licensed instructors in over 110,000 locations across more than 125 countries.

Elly Stoilova and Samantha Birmingham-Babauta served as the Zumba instructors at the dance party that lasted from 8pm to 10pm.

Friday night's party, co-sponsored by IT&E, Coca-Cola, Foremost, and GIG, was also a fundraiser for Japan relief efforts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gold's Gym instructors Samantha Birmingham-Babauta and Elly Stoilova show off their Zumba dance moves during the Zumba Dance Party Friday night at GIG in Garapan.

Van Dam said the party served as an introduction of the Zumba classes, which will be offered at Gold's Gym beginning this week.

Schedule of classes are Tuesdays at 6:30pm and Fridays at 5:30pm.

According to Van Dam, the first month of Zumba classes will be free, even for non-members, upon signing a waiver form.

After the first month, though, classes will be offered for $60 per 10 sessions or the "Super 10 Pass."

"It's a fun way of losing weight. We're very excited to offer the classes at Gold's Gym," she added.

The Zumba dance party was also a fundraising event, which raised $200 for the Japan relief efforts. Van Dam said this will be added to their collection box at the gym, which has $250. The combined collections will be presented to the American Red Cross later this week, she added.

"We're happy to see everybody come out to support Japan. What's going on there is devastating. If we can help in any way, we know we helped through dancing. It's good to see people come and show support that way," said Van Dam.

NMC English and math placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English and math placement tests on the following dates:

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE:

- May 16, Monday: 9am – 4pm, English Lab (Bldg. M)
- May 17, Tuesday: 9am – 6pm, English Lab (Bldg. M)
- May 18, Wednesday: 9am – 4pm, English Lab (Bldg. M)
- May 19, Thursday: 9am – 6pm, English Lab (Bldg. M)
- May 20, Friday: 9am – 4pm, English Lab (Bldg. M)

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE:

- May 17, Tuesday: 10am – 12pm, Room A-9
- May 19, Thursday: 10am – 12pm, Room A-9
- May 19, Thursday: 5pm – 7pm, Room A-9

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's summer 2011 semester will begin on May 18, 2011.

There is a $25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. If you have a placement test fee waiver, students must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and #2 pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time. Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and Humanities Department to schedule an appointment. "Walk-in" test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 Ext. 2017, Tom Colton at 234-5498 Ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at Ext. 2014.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. NMC students are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have *not* taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, contact the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the summer 2011 semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Air Force Academy selects two from the CNMI

Jeriko Ira Mafnas, son of Antonio Pangelinan Mafnas and Cynthia Taitano Castro Mafnas of Saipan, has been appointed to the Class of 2015 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Sun Park, son of Byung Hoon Park and Keum Ju Park of Saipan, has accepted an offer to attend the Air Force Academy Preparatory School, a stepping-stone to the Academy.

Mafnas and Park were two of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's nominees in this year's selection process for the U.S. service academies; and both are highly motivated, well-rounded individuals whom Sablan believes will represent the Northern Mariana Islands well as students and as officers in the Armed Forces.

Mafnas is a member of the Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps and the National Honor Society, and competes for his school's indoor and outdoor track and field teams and cross-country team. In addition to his multiple academic and athletic awards, he also spends many hours volunteering for charity events and tutoring other students.



Park

Mafnas' older brother, Ulysses Uriah Mafnas, also attended the Air Force Academy, graduating with the Class of 2003.

Sun Park is currently a senior at Marianas Baptist Academy. The Air Force Prep School he will attend is a 10-month program designed to prepare qualified students to enter the Academy.

Park is a student leader—he is class president, school newspaper liaison officer, and yearbook assistant editor. He has also participated in National Forensic League events and plays for MBA's volleyball and basketball teams.

Upon graduation from the Air Force Academy, Mafnas and Park will be awarded Bachelor of Science degrees and commissioned as second lieutenants in the Air Force. They will then serve on active duty for a minimum of five years. ***(PR)***

Sankei Sports explores fishing on Saipan

How's the fishing in the Northern Marianas?

That's what three lucky readers of a Japan daily sports newspaper are finding out this month, as *Sankei Sports Shimbun* comes to the tropical island of Saipan.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has provided a fishing tour for three winners of the fishing tournament "Sanspo Fishing Challenge 2010" conducted by the newspaper last year. The winners are on Saipan this month for a one-day boat fishing tour. They are accompanied by a writer and photographer from the newspaper, which will publish a seven-column article on the excursion at an ad value of approximately $71,000.

Sankei Sports Shimbun has a circulation of 758,000 readers and targets males in their 30s to 60s who are interested in fishing, including active seniors. This publication is sold at newsstands in the Tokyo area.

"The Northern Marianas offers many opportunities for visitors to enjoy boat fishing, whether it be a full-day or a half-day trolling charter, bottom fishing in the [Saipan] lagoon, one of our annual fishing derbies, or an extended charter to the Northern Islands," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "*Sanke Sports Shimbun* has had an established readership of avid fishermen since 1963, so it's an ideal avenue to reach this potential niche market of visitors."

The group stayed at Mariana Resort & Spa and departed yesterday, April 18. Their fishing tour is also supported by Saipan Sea Ventures/Pelley Boat Charters. ***(MVA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 2nd birthday to Stacy Lucille Arriola! Greetings come from all your family!



Happy 8th Birthday to Jaiden Sabugo who is celebrating her birthday today, April 19, 2011. May she have many more blessings to come and to enjoy her special day. Greetings from her friends and family.



Happy birthday greetings go out to Tawnie Ann D. Manibusan, who is celebrating her special day today! May your day be filled with lots love, joy, and happiness. With love, from Mom, Dad, and Sinforosa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Law Day poster and essay contests

Poster and essay submissions are being collected on April 26 from elementary and junior high schools for consideration in the Law Day Poster and Essay Contests, part of the National Law Week 2011.

Fifth and sixth graders from the Commonwealth's public and private schools have been invited to create posters relevant to this year's national Law Week theme: "The Legacy of John Adams, from Boston to Guantanamo."

All submissions will be picked up from the schools' respective principals on April 26.

John Adams was the second President of the United States who, during his legal career, is remembered for his unselfish representation of those accused in the 1770 Boston Massacre, ably defending them at trial, despite their public unpopularity. Seventh and eight graders have been invited to submit essays on the same subject.

Justices, judges and staff will review the submissions and determine the winners.

Cash prizes, a copy of the newly published *Judiciary History Book* and certificates of recognition will be awarded the winners at an award presentation to be held at the Supreme Court during Law Week May 2-6, a celebration co-sponsored by the NMI Judicial Council, the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, the CNMI Bar Association, and the Commissioner of our Public School System. ***(PR)***



John Adams, second President of the United States.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 92

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

Sexual Assault Awareness Month's message: Get involved

By ANNETTE FUENTES
PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Begun in 2001 by organizations working to prevent sexual assault, this month brings into focus cruel crimes that are everyday occurrences:

A soccer coach abuses a young girl over several years.

A teacher absconds to Mexico to avoid inquiry into his alleged molestation of a student.

A high schooler attending her homecoming dance is raped and beaten by several men as a group of more than a dozen watches.

But learning about such stories from the news media doesn't always add up to knowledge about the true dimensions of a problem. In 2009, there were 88,097 rapes in the United States, according to the FBI. That's a horrifyingly high number.

We need to educate people about sexual violence, and we need to work harder to prevent these crimes. Through education, we need to make everyone understand that sexual violence includes a spectrum of violations—from harassment and unwanted touching to forcible rape.

And the danger is not so much from strangers. In fact, most victims—73 percent of adults and 90 percent of children—know their attackers, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. Sixty percent of assaults occur in the victim's home or in the home of a friend, relative or neighbor.

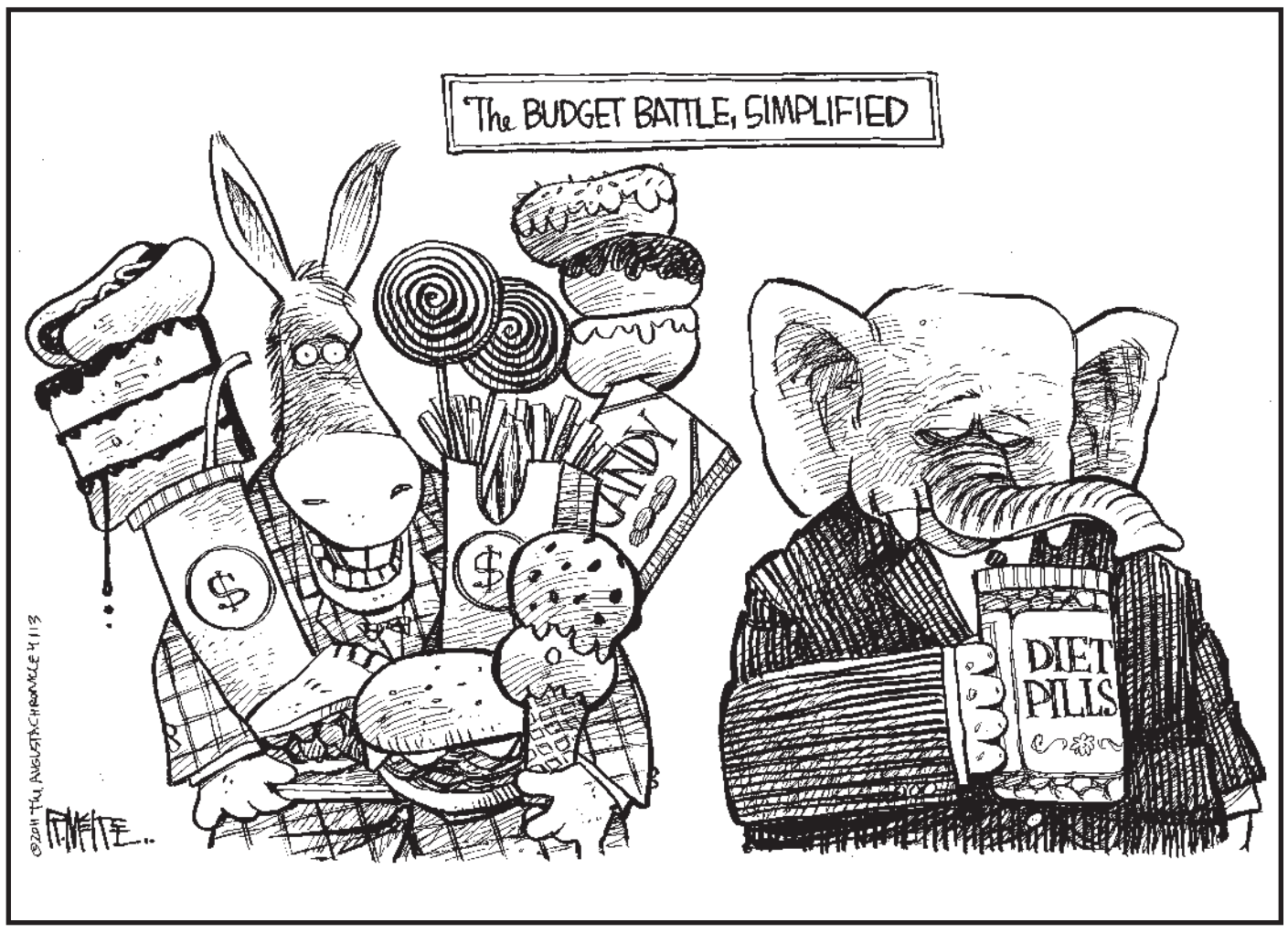
Sexual assaults—rape, in particular—are the crimes most underreported to the police for a variety of reasons. Despite a significant shift from blame-the-victim attitudes, some of that still lingers and so does shame and fear. Children, in particular, may be scared to expose their abuser, especially if it's a family member.

Reporting sexual crimes is also no guarantee of justice. One study cited by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center found that just half of reported sexual assaults lead to an arrest, and the probability of a rapist doing jail time is less than 20 percent.

What can any one person do? This year, the message of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "It's Time to Get Involved." Learning how to short circuit abusive situations before they begin, condemning behaviors and ideas that allow sexual violence to flourish and intervening safely if abuse occurs are responsibilities we can all take on.

The health and safety of our friends, relatives and neighbors depend on it.

Annette Fuentes is the author of the just-released book Lockdown High: When the Schoolhouse Becomes a Jailhouse*. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with* The Progressive *magazine.*



Lentil in my Lent



By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

Have not turned vegan but lentil in my diet has become prominent as the protein-high bean is inexpensively available fresh in the market here in northeast China.

It was in the sweltering heat of August '77 in Maharashtra in India, in the small village of Maliwada not too far from the famed Ellora caves, that I joined an international faculty of colleagues with the Ecumenical Institute conduct an eight-week residential Human Development Training School for some participants eager to learn how to effectively change the course of their community's future.

The vision might have been nebulous to many but to this passionate raging bull of human creativity, "all the earth—all the goods, all the decisions of history, and all the inventions of humanness—belongs to all the people" was not a political cliché that went with standing at attention to the strains of *L'Internationale*, or singing the octaves of *Amazing Grace* with a strangely warmed heart.

It came with a cosmic missional marching order of the intense magnitude of the liturgical tradition of servanthood before the stations of the Cross that heeded the metaphors of someone like Rabindranath Tagore who invited us to the task of "empowering the villages to meet their own requirements."

It was our goal to intensify the knowing, doing, and being of creatureliness before the human journey, among dreamers and adventurers in the faculty and students of what became the HDTS, trusting that in the process, and in the investiture of our lives in a servanthood style (for some, patterned in the footsteps of the Galilean carpenter), a profound transformation to individual and community would occur.

Squatting in the earth dusts of Maliwada's HDTS mess hall, we broke chapati flatbread with bowls of lentil dahl, a side dish in the more affluent tables in Mumbai, but a luxuriant main course to the starry-eyed school participants wrestling with the economic contradiction applied at the village level—of effective access to resources, efficient management of the means of production, and equitable sharing in the distribution of benefits. The political call to active participation in decisions that affect everyone's life, and recovering the reality of the cultural profundity of the human journey as invented in the Asian subcontinent and other regions of the planet, guided our curriculum. Curried red lentil graced out celebrations as we swayed to Mahatma Gandhi's ecumeni-secular yearning in Raghupathi Raghava Rajaram.

There was hardly any utopian dreaming associated with this endeavor; it was ontologically grounded in the sheer exercise of freedom that one can effect transformation standing over the abyss of shaky knowledge sans footnotes of scholastic certitude, the indeterminate nature of outcomes unaided by market analysis and statistical surveys, and the paucity of recognized tenure of certificated professional acceptance.

UN Secretary Dag Hammarskjold once counseled: "The Way has chosen you, and you must be thankful." We heeded his advice but gave it a slight twist: "We create the way; we are grateful."

There's a serenity that comes with knowing that your doing reflects the lifestyle of gratitude. It shows in the meticulous care one gives a crumpled hanky, or the respect one accords a stranger you strike an imaginal conversation with in a foreign land, or the assertive but non-obtrusive hand you extend when someone takes a literal or figurative fall. You know there is more to the enjoyment of life beyond the laughter even from a staged tragicomic pratfall.

A difficult situation presents itself and is met with courageous trust supplanting the incursion of fear, a stillness in the soul abides above the agitation of an insistent knee-jerk response, a sense of universal belonging among solitaries warms one's solitude, and the impulse to rush judgment sees intuitive reliance on common sense. The fundamental stance of faith, hope, and love blossoms in the creative imagination of gratefulness, turning a cup half-full wondrously full-filled, reshaping deep and hidden despair into the awesome discovery of unique yet greatly affirmed personal significance. The blithe and flighty *que sera sera* becomes assurance of Anshallah, and the fright before the mystery of our lives resounds with grateful Amen!

A concerted corporate journey along this trail left scars in our soul when the group institutionally called itself out of being from its immense journey. Before Nike made it a slogan, we just went out and did it!—our shaken, shattered, and broken lives scattered in the catwalk of human history. Orange County Republicans branded us on congressional record as communists, and because the acronym of our program was "ICA," a Philippine government official thought us to be Company operatives who failed to protect his benefactor Marcos from the spineless political Left!

Lent in my lentils remained as an aftertaste, but now in Dong Bei's resurgent China, it is physically back in our dietary regimen, and in gratitude, we intone an archaic formula to Gaia: this is my body, take, eat, it is given for you. In the sunset of our years, we heed the words of the prophet on the subway walls, though this time, it is brightly lit and printed simply with a check mark: Just Do It!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Kids for autism: From the mouths of babes



By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Sometimes kids say the darndest things. A 6th grade class responded to a simple question about autism with an array of comments as vast as the spectrum of the disorder itself. Responses included but were not limited to the following:

"I think that there is like a higher level or something than autism where you talk when nobody is there, you laugh when nothing is funny, and other things. The hardest part of having any brother or sister that has autism (I don't have any brother or sister that has autism) is that it will be part of your responsibilities to help your mom or parents to feed them or to help them with other things you could do but they can't." (Angelica).

"People with autism are not dumb, but they have a part of a brain that is dead or it is not functioning very well. Also, I think people with autism are cool because most of the time they are always in a very good and happy mood." (Franklin).

"I think that we should have autism friends because they don't have much friends…I think the reason why they don't have friends is because of the way they act. They sometimes just do something crazy, like bang their head on the ground or shout. Maybe (people) are scared of people with autism." (Jobe).

"Autism is a mental disorder in which some people have a hard time reading, communicating, or doing activities. People don't know what really caused autism. It may be some kind of disease that the Mother had and the disease was passed down to the baby. The disease the mother had changed the baby into autistic mode." (Ezekiel).

"I think autism is a disability that has something to do with vaccines. I heard that vaccines can have too much mercury in them which can poison a person." (Nathaniel).

"People with autism cannot talk, but they can understand what you say. Also, when many people are talking at once, it's like a million sounds to the person with autism. I don't really know what it's like to have autism…Sometimes I think that people with autism are weird, but I pretty much understand why. Sometimes I feel sorry for those people with autism. I wanna know how people with autism feel." (Keziah).

"The thing about autism is that their brain is lacking something inside it. The people that I know that have autism do unusual movements and also make unusual noises—I don't really know why they do those things." (Joshah).

"There is boy in my school and some people say he acts weird, but they don't know he has autism. I know (he is) smart. Some people say he is dumb, but (he is) really smart, but (he) just can't say it." (Daven).

"Autism is mostly hereditary, so you can't get it by breathing the same air as someone who has it. Autism is like a disfunction…the brain doesn't register things correctly, it makes things louder and it makes the person feel as if (he's) burning. The brain registers more pictures than we see." (Devina).

"Many people have autism these days. I have little information about autism, (but) I think that autism would ruin the life of the kids that have it. That's why teachers and parents now are trying to help them no matter what." (Gabriel).

"People with autism struggle to control their body. Their senses are amplified times a hundred making their brain hurt… I think." (Corlaine).

I think they are special meaning they have friends and family that care for (them) to help (them) with learning and to just be with (them) because I think people with autism get very lonely." (Rynta).

"But, as we may all know, that not all humans are the same… if we are all the same, we won't learn new things in our daily lives. People with autism didn't choose to have life and to live life with disabilities. Be happy with what you are and what you come out to be. Remember everyone is different in a special way." (Walyn).

Parents of children with autism and various partnering agencies continue to seek ways for increasing awareness about autism. Above mentioned class of kids regularly discuss disability-related issues (including autism) and yet the notion is still hard to grasp—I don't think it is so farfetched to suggest that the above kids know as much, if not more, about autism than the average adult in our community. The point being that the discussions need to be ongoing if awareness about issues surrounding autism and other disabilities is take any definitive root with people other than those directly confronting the issue.

For more information about autism and/or support services for people with autism or for ideas on how to generate awareness about autism, please feel free to contact the NMPASI office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or via the Internet at www.nmpasi.com.

Honoring the *man'amko*



By JOSEPH M. PALACIOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joseph M. Palacios is a member of the House of Representatives of the CNMI Legislature and is a former director of the Office on Aging.

I am greatly concerned about the incident of a 27-year-old woman beating her elderly father! There is currently a law in place, Public Law 9-21, which has been in effect since Jan. 16, 1995. This law is very specific on subsection 1453 "Senior Citizen Physical Abuse and/or Mental Cruelty": (a) A person commits the offense of *man'amko* physical abuse if he or she willfully, knowingly, and intentionally endangers, hurts, ill-treats, mistreats, mishandles, victimizes, strikes, beats, or in any manner inflicts physical pain, injury, or mental distress or undue anguish upon any member of the *man'amko*. Part (d) of the law states that "A person convicted of *man'amko* mental cruelty or physical abuse is guilty of a crime and upon conviction thereof shall be imprisoned for not more than one year, or fined not more than $1,000, or both."

I am not sure about the outcome of this recent case that caught my attention but our senior citizens deserve to be treated with respect and honor, most especially those who are ill and are bedridden. They deserve to be loved, they need to feel that they are needed and that their presence makes our life more meaningful.

May is "Older American Month" (*Mes Man'Amko/Maramal Tufeey*). The monthlong celebration aims to pay tribute and honor their contribution to our family and to our community. It is because of our *man'amko* that we are here today. They have nurtured us, took care of us until we are able to take care of ourselves or go on our own. Now we must return that same love to them, the love that raised us to be productive citizens, the same love that we must pass on to our own children.

If you know of someone committing such a crime (or any other crimes), be it a family member(s), a neighbor, or a friend, please report such acts to the proper authorities. Our *man'amko* deserves better…they deserves our love. *Biba man'amko!*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cape Air blues

I have lived on Saipan for over 42 years and cannot remember a time when we have had to deal with an extended breakdown with air service to Guam. As a consequence, it is raising havoc with business, tourist cancellations, etc. Some have estimated potential losses to our economy and individuals well in excess of tens upon tens of thousands of dollars.

Last Saturday a friend was trying to return back to Saipan. After spending hours at the airport she was finally put into a hotel, late, only to have to get up Sunday morning at 4am for her rescheduled flight. She was delayed over half a day.

On Monday, my daughter and her 9-month-old daughter checked in for a 10am flight to Saipan and after many false starts finally left on a 2:55pm Fly Guam plane. She was delayed five hours.

And just yesterday, our Divisional vice president, who came in from Seattle, checked in for his 7am flight to Saipan, which was cancelled and three subsequent departures were cancelled. He finally went back to his hotel and flew out of Guam this morning for Honolulu completely scratching our visit that had been planned for months. This was a rare opportunity for him to visit and address important business but we never got the chance.

Today, my daughter's husband is expected at 1pm. We wish we could plan on his arrival.

If just one person has experienced three Cape Air cancellations in five days, can you imagine how many other situations have occurred? So far it must have affected thousands of individuals. Multiply that by $100 or $200 in personal inconvenience and the losses are staggering.

We understand that Cape Air is doing everything possible to correct this problem but it is not enough. Two months ago, Cape Air was down for around two weeks when my afternoon flight was cancelled and rescheduled on a "mercy" flight provided by Continental from Japan at 5am.

Cape Air needs to do better than this. A plan needs to be implemented whereby these disruptions cease immediately with a backup plan that will address future cancellations, which are sure to arise. Shuttling two planes back and forth to the mainland obviously does not work.

P.S. The public also needs to be informed when Cape Air experience these disruptions. A one-month $99 Guam/Saipan promo would be a great way to encourage passenger satisfaction.

Jerold F. Facey
Papago, Saipan

BS as usual

When will Saipan's politicians wake up and smell the BS that they are dealing out to the people of the CNMI? If they ever paid attention to their surroundings while on their many junkets to the mainland they would see how the American farmer has harnessed the sun and wind for ALL their power needs. Did anyone on Capital Hill do a study to see how easy it would be to power the cemetery and other sites in Marpi using solar or wind power? Probably not; just business as usual for Saipan's inept political machine to ignore the voices of the people.

Paul Beebe
Spokane, Washington

Stakeholders should be involved

The coconut wireless has it that the purpose and function of Micronesian Seminar, long an invaluable source of guidance, information, and resources for Micronesia, is undergoing a reassessment by Jesuit headquarters in New York. There's nothing wrong with occasionally re-examining goals, purposes, programs of an institution—that's purportedly what keeps it relevant.

It is a little disturbing, however, that in this case none of the stakeholders appear to be involved in the reassessment. Those who've benefited from MicSem's services, have made use of its products, who rely on it for guidance and perspective, would not appear to have been given a voice, or a role to play, in the reevaluation process.

I, for one, would hate to see it change. Though its products may be aimed at the FSM, the Marshalls and Palau, they have a much broader impact—often equally applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as other developing islands in the Pacific. I have, for example, made frequent use of its publication, *Micronesian Counselor*, in my online column "On My Mind"—often quoting it at great length because it is so pertinent to the topic at hand.

Micronesian Seminar has been directed by Fr. Francis X. Hezel, SJ since its founding in 1972. Currently on sabbatical, Hezel has written extensively about Micronesia's history, culture, and economics, particularly of the Marshalls and the Carolines, and is widely recognized as an expert on the region.

Comments may be sent to John Hagileiram, S.J., Regional Superior, Society of Jesus of Micronesia, at hagileiram@gmail.com.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

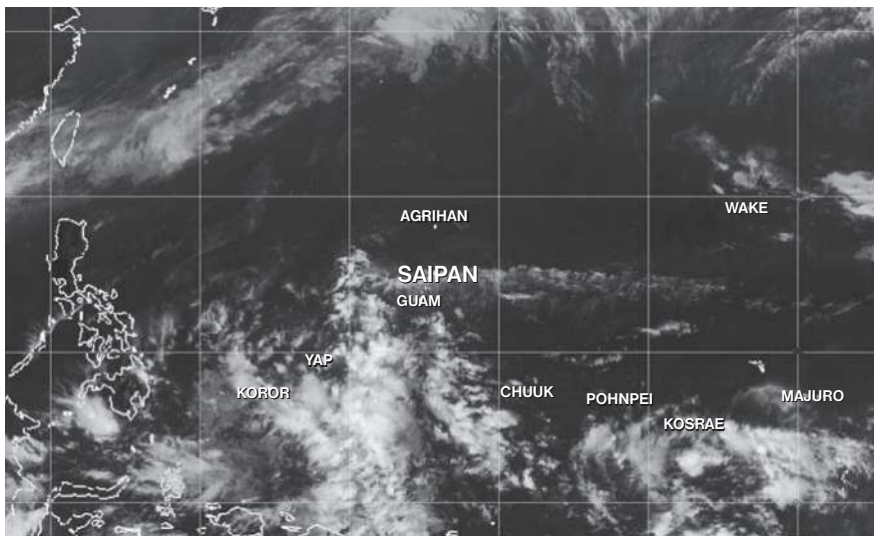
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲84	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲63	▼58
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼50
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲77	▼69
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼73
London	Sunny	▲72	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲68	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼74
New York	Showers	▲60	▼49
Osaka	Showers	▲56	▼50
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼49
Pusan	Showers	▲59	▼47
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼51
Salem	Showers	▲55	▼36
San Francisco	Showers	▲57	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼40
Tokyo	Rain	▲66	▼48
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲73	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from north of 25N at 135E to beyond 130E at 22N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of the front. A weak monsoon trough stretches eastward from 5N130E to a broad circulation centered southeast of Koror near 5N136E. Another trough extends northward from the circulation center to near 16N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with these features are found across the large area bounded by EQ137E to 10N132E to Yap to 17N140E to 10N144E to EQ145E back to EQ137E. This includes Palau but is west of the Marianas. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Kosrae and south of Pohnpei between the equator and 6N from 157E to 174E and east of Majuro between 5N and 8N from 175E to 179E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with a dissipating shear line are occurring north and east of Wake Island within 75 miles of a line from 23N164E 21N168E to 20N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:47 PM	6:31 AM
Wednesday	8:51 PM	7:26 AM
Thursday	9:52 PM	8:24 AM
Friday	10:49 PM	9:23 AM
Saturday	11:41 PM	10:22 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

Japan's auto parts makers struggle after disaster

ISHINOMAKI, Japan (AP)—In the days after Japan's earthquake and tsunami, Masahiko Horio knew he had to get his factory back online quickly.

Customers were clamoring. The backlog of orders swelled.

The zinc and aluminum widgets made by his company, Horio Seisakusho Co., appear insignificant at first glance. But the tiny metal components represent a vital fraction of the thousands of parts used in a single car.

The global supply chain that feeds the giant automakers—Toyota, Honda and General Motors—begins at unassuming companies like Horio Seisakusho. Japan's recent disaster showed that one missing link can grind production lines around the world to a halt.



AP

In this photo taken Monday, April 4, 2011, new vehicles damaged by the March 11 tsunami are placed in a Toyota Motor Corp. parking lot at Sendai port, Miyagi prefecture, northern Japan.

The imperative to resume normal output is pressing for small parts suppliers throughout northeast Japan, which must keep customers happy or face the prospect of losing major business to competitors at home and abroad. Already, companies in Taiwan and Southeast Asia are seeing orders climb as customers search for alternative supply sources.

The 54 employees at Horio Seisakusho in hard-hit Ishinomaki produce some 600 different electronic and auto parts, including basic components for car antennas and navigation systems. It managed to avoid tsunami damage because it sits on a hill. Nonetheless, the earthquake and power shortages idled its machines for two weeks.

Horio, the manufacturer's president, faced another serious problem as he frantically worked to restart operations. An even smaller firm that finished and tested a half-dozen of his parts was wiped out by the March 11 tsunami. Horio couldn't ship supplies to customers without this final step in quality control.

A visit 40 minutes away to where the 14-person company, Ogatsu Musen, once stood revealed the extent of the destruction. The frame of the building remains, but little else. A boat juts out from the gutted structure. Horio's metal components and the equipment used to perfect them lay scattered amid the debris.

But there was urgent work to be done. And the president decided that if Ogatsu Musen had no building, he would provide the equipment and make space at his own company until it found a new home.

"We thought about other options at first," Horio said. "But Ogatsu is fast and knows how to do this work. And we didn't want to impose any further burdens on our customers."

His company is operating at about 80 percent capacity now, but the future is far from clear. Horio worries about electricity shortages in the summer that could curtail output and whether customers might turn elsewhere.

"We just need to recover as quickly as possible and make sure that our customers are confident in our ability to provide supplies," he said.

Poll: US economy improving despite global events

WASHINGTON (AP)—Economists say the U.S. economy is gaining strength despite political unrest in North Africa and the Middle East and last month's devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

A survey from the National Association for Business Economics finds that economists are hopeful that the broader economy is substantially improving, with rising employment reported for the fifth quarter in a row. The survey found that "companies appear to be positioning themselves for a firming economic environment," said Shawn DuBravac, an economist with the Consumer Electronics Association, who analyzed the findings.

The outlook for employment rose slightly, reaching a 12-year high. No firms reported significant layoffs, with the only reductions coming from already planned cuts.

Sales increased for the third consecutive quarter, profit margins continued to improve and the number of economists whose firms increased spending over the previous quarter held steady. Nearly all of the 72 economists surveyed, about 94 percent, now expect the economy to grow at least 2 percent in 2011.

The quarterly survey includes the views of economists for private companies and trade groups who are NABE members. The data are reported by broad industry groupings. Many results in the survey are expressed through the Net Rising Index, or NRI - the percentage of panelists reporting better outlooks minus the percentage whose outlook is bleaker.

The survey looked at two new questions for its April survey, gauging the financial impact of anti-government unrest in the Arab world and the deadly Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

Nearly 60 percent of those polled said they expected higher costs because of political turmoil in Bahrain, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Syria and about 52 percent said they expected economic growth to be weaker in 2011 because of the protests and fighting.

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami, which left nearly 28,000 people dead or missing and sparked a crisis at a nuclear plant, had less of an impact on the economic forecasts. About 31 percent said costs would be higher and 40 percent said it would weaken the broader economic recovery.

Super rich see federal taxes drop dramatically

WASHINGTON (AP)—As millions of procrastinators scramble to meet Monday's tax filing deadline, ponder this: The super rich pay a lot less taxes than they did a couple of decades ago, and nearly half of U.S. households pay no income taxes at all.

The Internal Revenue Service tracks the tax returns with the 400 highest adjusted gross incomes each year. The average income on those returns in 2007, the latest year for IRS data, was nearly $345 million. Their average federal income tax rate was 17 percent, down from 26 percent in 1992.

Over the same period, the average federal income tax rate for all taxpayers declined to 9.3 percent from 9.9 percent.

The top income tax rate is 35 percent, so how can people who make so much pay so little in taxes? The nation's tax laws are packed with breaks for people at every income level. There are breaks for having children, paying a mortgage, going to college, and even for paying other taxes. Plus, the top rate on capital gains is only 15 percent.

There are so many breaks that 45 percent of U.S. households will pay no federal income tax for 2010, according to estimates by the Tax Policy Center, a Washington think tank.



AP

In this President Barack Obama outlines his fiscal policy during an address at George Washington University in Washington.

"It's the fact that we are using the tax code both to collect revenue, which is its primary purpose, and to deliver these spending benefits that we run into the situation where so many people are paying no taxes," said Roberton Williams, a senior fellow at the center, which generated the estimate of people who pay no income taxes.

The sheer volume of credits, deductions and exemptions has both Democrats and Republicans calling for tax laws to be overhauled. House Republicans want to eliminate breaks to pay for lower overall rates, reducing the top tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent. Republicans oppose raising taxes, but they argue that a more efficient tax code would increase economic activity, generating additional tax revenue.

President Barack Obama said last week he wants to do away with tax breaks to lower the rates and to reduce government borrowing. Obama's proposal would result in $1 trillion in tax increases over the next 12 years. Neither proposal included many details, putting off hard choices about which tax breaks to eliminate.

In all, the tax code is filled with a total of $1.1 trillion in credits, deductions and exemptions, an average of about $8,000 per taxpayer, according to an analysis by the National Taxpayer Advocate, an independent watchdog within the IRS.

More than half of the nation's tax revenue came from the top 10 percent of earners in 2007. More than 44 percent came from the top 5 percent. Still, the wealthy have access to much more lucrative tax breaks than people with lower incomes.

Obama wants the wealthy to pay so "the amount of taxes you pay isn't determined by what kind of accountant you can afford."

Eric Schoenberg says to sign him up for paying higher taxes. Schoenberg, who inherited money and has a healthy portfolio from his days as an investment banker, has joined a group of other wealthy Americans called United for a Fair Economy.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BlackBerry maker: UAE policy would apply to others

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The maker of BlackBerry devices says tighter restrictions on the popular gadgets proposed by Emirati authorities would likely apply to other smartphones too, raising new questions about data freedom in the Gulf Arab nation. The United Arab Emirates' telecommunications regulator has outlined plans to limit access to the Blackberry Enterprise Server system, which provides the most secure form of communication on the handheld devices. It is used by many international companies and government agencies to keep emails and other data safe.

Geithner confident Congress will raise debt limit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says Republican leaders have privately assured the Obama administration that Congress will raise the government's borrowing limit in time to prevent an unprecedented default on the nation's debt. But a top Republican quickly pushed back Sunday and said there was no guarantee the GOP would agree to increase the $14.3 trillion debt ceiling without further controls on federal spending. Geithner told ABC's "This Week" and NBC's "Meet the Press" that Republicans told President Barack Obama in a White House meeting last Wednesday that they will go along with a higher limit.

Slim's cellphone subsidiary hit with $1B fine

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's anti-trust commission has hit billionaire Carlos Slim's cellphone subsidiary with a 12 billion peso ($1 billion) fine, parent company America Movil announced. The Federal Competition Commission said the cellphone subsidiary, Telcel, engaged in monopolistic practices associated with call terminations, America Movil said in a filing with the Mexican stock exchange late Friday. The company said it is studying the fine and all options for appeal.

Nation

NC gets worst of storms that ravaged swath of US

ASKEWVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A tornado-spewing storm system that killed at least 45 people across half the country unleashed its worst fury on North Carolina, where homes broke apart, trees snapped and livestock were swept into the air. Residents in the capital city and rural hamlets alike on Sunday mourned the dead, marveled at their own survival and began to clean up devastated neighborhoods.

Observers reported more than 60 tornadoes across North Carolina on Saturday, but most of the state's 21 confirmed deaths occurred in two rural counties. A thunderstorm spawned a tornado that killed four people in southeastern Bladen County, then kept dropping tornadoes as it hopscotched more than 150 miles, eventually moving into Bertie County and killing 11 more.

Heavy winds swept some homes from their foundations, demolished others and flipped cars on tiny rural roads between Askewville and Colerain, Bertie County Manager Zee Lamb said. At least three of those who died were from the same family, he said.

The winds ripped to shreds the doublewide mobile home in Askewville where Justin Dunlow had sought shelter for his 3-year-old daughter, 5-year-old son and himself. The 23-year-old roofer, whose own mobile home nearby also was destroyed, lay on both children as the storm did its worst.



AP

Annina Purdy, who was inside the Lowe's hardware store in Sanford, N.C. the previous day when a tornado destroyed the building, returned to the store's parking lot on Sunday, April 17, 2011, to reclaim personal belongings from her car.

"I just started praying, and the wall fell on top of us and that's what kept us there," he said. "I can replace the house, but I can't replace my babies. And that's what I thought about. I'm alive. My babies are alive."

In Bladen County, Milton McKoy had thought his mobile home in Ammon was out of the storm's path before he saw a tornado over the tops of pine trees, lifting pigs and other animals into the sky.

"It looked just like 'The Wizard of Oz,'" said his wife, Audrey.

The couple took shelter in the laundry room as the tornado snapped trees and carried off several homes in the neighborhood. When they stepped out, it took them a moment to figure out the twister had turned their own home around, leaving them in the backyard.

The violent weather began Thursday in Oklahoma, where two people died, before cutting across the Deep South on Friday and hitting North Carolina and Virginia on Saturday. Authorities said seven people died in Arkansas; seven in Alabama; seven in Virginia; and one in Mississippi.

More than 240 tornadoes were reported from the storm system, including 62 in North Carolina, but the National Weather Service's final numbers could be lower because some tornadoes may have been reported more than once.

Saturday was North Carolina's deadliest day for tornadoes since 1984, when 22 twisters killed 42 people and injured hundreds. The state emergency management agency said it had reports of 23 fatalities from Saturday's storms, but local officials confirmed only 21 deaths with The Associated Press.

FAA gives tired controllers an extra hour to rest

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government said Sunday it is giving air traffic controllers an extra hour off between shifts so they don't doze off at work, a problem that stretches back decades. But officials rejected the remedy that sleep experts say would make a real difference: on-the-job napping.

"On my watch, controllers will not be paid to take naps. We're not going to allow that," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said.

That's exactly the opposite of what scientists and the Federal Aviation Administration's own fatigue working group say is needed after five cases disclosed since late March of sleeping controllers. The latest one occurred just before 5 a.m. Saturday at a busy regional radar facility that handles high altitude air traffic for much of Florida, portions of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

Several other countries, including Germany and Japan, permit controllers to take sleeping breaks and they provide quiet rooms with cots for that purpose.

"Given the body of scientific evidence, that decision clearly demonstrates that politics remain more important than public safety," said Bill Voss, president of the Flight Safety Foundation of Alexandria, Va. "People are concerned about a political backlash if they allow controllers to have rest periods in their work shifts the same way firefighters and trauma physicians do."



AP

In this Sept. 10, 2010, file photo Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood listens to FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt talk about proposed rules to help prevent dangerous pilot fatigue at the Transportation Department in Washington.

It has been an open secret in the FAA dating to at least the early 1990s that controllers sometimes sleep on the job. Toughest are the midnight shifts, which usually begin about 10 p.m. and end about 6 a.m.

Scientists say it would be surprising if controllers didn't doze sometimes because they are trying to stay awake during the time of day when the body naturally craves sleep.

Studies show that 30 percent to 50 percent of night-shift workers report falling asleep at least once a week while on the job, according to Dr. Charles Czeisler, chief of sleep medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Six of eight present and former controllers interviewed by The Associated Press acknowledged they briefly fell asleep while working alone at night at least once in their careers. Most of the controllers asked not to be identified because they didn't want to jeopardize their jobs or the jobs of colleagues.

Officials: No nuclear risk to N. Pacific fish

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—North Pacific fish are so unlikely to be contaminated by radioactive material from the crippled nuclear plant in Japan that there's no reason to test them, according to federal and state of Alaska health officials.

Dangerous levels of radiation have been reported off the coast from the Fukushima reactor complex. However, a spokeswoman for the federal Food and Drug Administration told the Anchorage Daily News that the ocean is so huge, and Alaska fisheries so far away, that there is no realistic threat.

Alaska's food safety program manager, Ron Klein of the Department of Environmental Conservation, said the FDA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have demonstrated that Alaskans have no cause for worry.

"Based on the work they're doing, no sampling or monitoring of our fish is necessary," he said.

A little more than a month into the nuclear crisis, Japanese officials believe they have plugged the major leak that allowed tons of water containing highly radioactive isotopes of iodine and cesium to flow into the sea.

ACROSS THE NATION

Officials: 5 killed in NC national forest wreck

CROATAN NATIONAL FOREST, N.C. (AP)—Five people, including two infants and another child, were killed Sunday when a sport utility vehicle overturned on a national forest road near coastal North Carolina and sank in a canal, officials said. The crash happened between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the Croatan National Forest north of Camp Lejeune. Tire marks on the gravel road indicate that speed was likely a factor and that the fatal storms that killed at least 21 in the state did not appear to play a role, said Highway Patrol Trooper R.A. Woods. Officials hadn't identified the victims and Woods did not immediately know if all were related. He said the infants—a boy and a girl—were found still strapped in their child seats when the SUV was pulled from the water. It had been upside down, almost completely submerged and drowning appeared to be the cause of death, he said.

Winds-stoked wildfires threaten Texas communities

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Strong winds and tinder-dry conditions presented more challenges Sunday for firefighters battling a spate of wildfires threatening communities across Texas, including a blaze in Austin that destroyed several homes and prompted an aerial water attack in the capital city. The wildfires that have ravaged more than 1,000 square miles of mostly rural terrain in the last week prompted Gov. Rick Perry to ask President Barack Obama to issue a disaster declaration that would allow affected areas to receive federal help. "Texas is reaching its capacity to respond to these emergencies and is in need of federal assistance," Perry said in a statement Sunday. "I urge President Obama to approve our request quickly."

Machine arrives to aid rescuers at N. Idaho mine

MULLAN, Idaho (AP)—Mining company officials brought in a remote-controlled digging machine Sunday to help try to reach a worker missing since a tunnel collapsed deep inside an Idaho mine. The special digger must be disassembled before being taken more than a mile below the surface, where it will be put back together, according to Hecla Mining Company officials. Officials said the machine should be underground by Sunday evening, but it was unclear how soon the process of reassembling the device would be finished or when rescuers would be able to put it to work.

Asia

Clinton visits Tokyo in show of support for Japan

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday that America would stand by Japan, saying she was confident the country will fully recover from its tsunami and nuclear disasters.

"We are very confident that Japan will recover and will be a very strong economic and global player for years and decades to come," Clinton told Prime Minister Naoto Kan during a brief visit to Tokyo intended as a morale boost to the crucial U.S. ally.

Kan thanked Clinton for U.S. help with the crises triggered by a magnitude-9.0 earthquake on March 11 that unleashed a massive tsunami, wrecking cooling and power systems at a nuclear plant that has been leaking radiation ever since.

"We will never forget and we will keep in our memory that the U.S. has provided such robust support," said Kan, in comments suggesting the aid has helped soothe friction over an American military base in Okinawa that forced his predecessor, Yukio Hatoyama, to resign last year.

Relief operations mounted by American soldiers after the earthquake and tsunami helped show a new and welcome face for troops the Japanese have hosted—sometimes grudgingly—for decades.



AP

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton smiles as she greets the children of U.S. Embassy employees at the embassy in Tokyo Sunday, April 17, 2011.

Roughly 20,000 U.S. troops were mobilized in "Operation Tomodachi," or "Friend," the biggest bilateral humanitarian mission the U.S. has conducted in Japan. The U.S. is also helping Japan cope with its nuclear crisis.

Kan has pledged to beef up disaster preparedness and make his top priority resolving the crisis at the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

Tokyo Electric Power Co., the operator of the plant, announced Sunday a plan to bring the crisis under control within six to nine months, aiming to end radiation leaks that have forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people.

"We would like to see evacuees return to their homes as early as possible," said TEPCO Chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata.

Clinton said Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto, who she met with earlier, told her that Japan hoped for U.S. feedback on the plan.

"The constant efforts to respond to the situation at Fukushima have required intense analysis by Japanese, American and international experts, and we have been very supportive of what Japan is doing to take the appropriate steps," she said.

Clinton and Matsumoto announced the formation of a public-private partnership to encourage investment in the recovery effort. The aim is to keep American businesses interested in Japan by demonstrating its ability to bounce back from daunting natural disasters.

"There has been a great outpouring of concern, sympathy and admiration for the great resilience and spirit the Japanese people have shown throughout this very difficult experience," Clinton said.

Clinton, who called Japan's well-being a "bedrock priority," also met with the Japanese emperor and empress. She was due to return to the U.S. later Sunday.

"I am so, so sorry for everything your country is going through. If there is anything we can do ..." Clinton said to Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, who have been visiting evacuation centers near Tokyo and plan visits to areas hardest hit by the disasters in coming weeks.

India's last maharaja of Jaipur dies at 79

JAIPUR, India (AP)—Thousands of people poured into the courtyard of a sprawling palace in the western Indian city of Jaipur on Sunday to pay their last respects to Brigadier Sawai Bhawani Singh, the city's last maharaja.

Singh, 79, died late Saturday in a hospital on the outskirts of New Delhi where he had spent the last two weeks, his daughter Diya Kumari said. He had suffered from high blood pressure and a lung infection.

Singh served as the maharaja or hereditary ruler of Jaipur after his father Sawai Man Singh's death in June 1970. Jaipur was one of hundreds of tiny royal kingdoms that dotted India until the country's independence from Britain in 1947.

The rulers continued to hold onto their titles after independence. However, Singh served as maharaja for only a few months until India formally abolished the royal titles in 1971.

Nevertheless, he continued to be revered in western India's Rajasthan state and was often referred to by his royal title.

Singh served in the Indian army and fought in the 1971 war against rival Pakistan.



AP

In this Oct. 18, 2010 photograph, Brigadier Sawai Bhawani Singh, the last Maharaja of Jaipur, poses during his birthday at Jaipur, India.

On Sunday evening his body—dressed in a military uniform—was laid out in the courtyard of the Chandra Mahal or Moon Palace, one of the palaces that continued to be home to the former royal family. Thousands of local residents and tourists paid their respects, many carrying garlands and flowers to place by his body.

Male relatives and staff members wearing turbans in the mourning colors of black, white and khaki stood beside the body. Singh's wife and other female relatives mourned in a separate section of the palace.

"He was a very kind man and he used to mix with commoners easily," said 84-year-old Mansha Ram Garg, who came to pay his respects.

His funeral is to be conducted in Jaipur according to Hindu religious rites on Monday. He is survived by his wife Padmini Devi and daughter Kumari.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi welcomes US envoy nomination

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi says she hopes that a new U.S. special envoy to Myanmar will be able to help usher in true democratic reforms in her country.

President Barack Obama last week nominated Derek Mitchell, a defense official and Asia expert, as U.S. special envoy to Myanmar. He would have the tough job of negotiating with its military dominated government and pushing for reform. The post still needs to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

"I'm a cautious optimist," Suu Kyi told reporters Sunday. "As a special envoy, he probably sees that his duty is to try to bring about democratization of Burma as smoothly and quickly as possible. So we look upon him as a friend."

Myanmar is also known as Burma.

Suu Kyi's opposition party, which won previous elections in 1990 but was blocked from taking power by the military, boycotted the last vote in November, calling it unfair. Much of the international community also dismissed the elections as rigged in favor of the junta.

Suu Kyi's disbanded party, the National League for Democracy, held a religious ceremony in honor of Myanmar's traditional New Year, which started Sunday after four days of festivities.

For the New Year, Suu Kyi said she wished for "peace and happiness and hope for the future."

"Let's hope that even if we do not get peace and happiness immediately, we will have great hopes of peace and happiness to come," Suu Kyi said.

The party also held a ceremony for three people it named as "The unsung heroes"—Buddhist monk U Aindaka and two party members, Khin Win and Than Naing. All three are serving long prison sentences for their pro-democracy work.

In the past 18 months, the Obama administration has shifted the long-standing U.S. policy of isolating Myanmar's generals, attempting to engage them while retaining sanctions imposed because of the military's poor record on human rights and democracy.

The policy has made little headway. The U.S. says it is premature to lift sanctions. It is urging Myanmar to release its more than 2,000 political prisoners and open up its politics. Washington is also concerned about Myanmar's alleged nuclear ambitions and trade in weapons with North Korea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China dissident: Former Taiwan govt gave me money

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A prominent Chinese dissident says Taiwan's previous government gave him money to promote democracy in his homeland. Wang Dan says former President Chen Shui-bian "offered financial support to China's democratic movement" on behalf of Taiwan's government. But he denies earlier reports that the cash came from the pockets of the island's disgraced president. The U.S.-based Wang was one of the leaders of the 1989 protest movement in China that ended when security forces killed hundreds and possibly thousands of protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. His comments were published Monday in the Apple Daily newspaper.

Landslide kills 10 gathering firewood in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Police say a landslide on Indonesia's main island killed 10 people over the weekend. Heavy rains sent rocks and dirt cascading down a 260-foot- (80-meter-) cliff in Malang district in central Java island. Police Capt. Prayitno said nine men died instantly while they were gathering firewood near a river Sunday. He said Monday that the 10th victim died in a hospital later. Prayitno uses only one name, like many Indonesians.

17 killed, scores injured in southern China storms

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities say at least 17 people have been killed and scores injured after violent thunderstorms lashed parts of the country's southern industrial heartland of Guangdong province. Emergency service officials say hail, rain and gale-force winds struck the province's capital, Guangzhou, along with the nearby cities of Foshan, Dongguan and Zhaoqing. Victims were struck by falling objects and collapsing walls and work sheds, with the official Xinhua News Agency saying 118 people were reported injured. The region is home to much of China's crucial export manufacturing sector, although there was no immediate indication of serious damage to assembly lines.

World

Mass protests in Yemen over leader's women remark



AP

Female anti-government protestors chant prayers during a demonstration demanding the resignation of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa, Yemen, Sunday, April 17, 2011.

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Security forces fired on anti-government protesters in Yemen's capital Sunday as hundreds of thousands of marchers—including many women—packed cities around the country to denounce the president and remarks he made against women taking part in rallies demanding his ouster.

The massive turnout suggests opposition forces have been able to tap into fresh outrage against Ali Abdullah Saleh after his comments Friday that mingling of men and women at protests violated Islamic law.

Meanwhile, representatives from Yemen's opposition held talks with regional mediators in the Saudi capital Sunday to discuss a proposal by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council for ending the unrest in which Saleh would transfer power to his deputy.

The Yemeni opposition says nothing short of Saleh's immediate departure would end the unrest in the impoverished Gulf nation at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. The GCC proposal also offers the president immunity from prosecution, which the opposition rejected.

Security forces opened fire on protesters in the capital on Sunday as marchers neared the office of the special forces, headed by Saleh's son. Witnesses said the forces fired live ammunition, and used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowd. Security agents chased protesters in side streets.

Mohammed el-Abahi, the head doctor at the protesters' field hospital, said at least 220 people were wounded, including 20 people hit by gunfire.

Witnesses said ambulances were prevented by security forces from reaching some of the wounded, many of whom were taken to a mosque.

Abdul-Malek al-Youssefi, an activist and a protest organizer, said the latest protest wave could well be "the last nail in Saleh's coffin."

A youth movement leading the anti-Salah protests called for mass demonstrations Sunday, dubbed a day of "honor and dignity" that brought out a strong outpouring of women upset at the president's comments on Friday.

"He aimed to provoke families and the society," said Arwa Shaher, a female activist. "But it has only increased our resolve to pursue the people's demands to ensure that this man, who is losing his mind day by day, goes."

A young woman first led anti-Saleh demonstrations on a university campus in late January, but women didn't begin taking part in large numbers until early March. It was a startling step in a nation with deeply conservative social and Islamic traditions.

But Saleh has clung to power despite the near-daily protests and defections by key allies in the military, powerful tribes and diplomatic corps amid calls to fight poverty and open up the country's restricted political life.

Security forces have launched fierce attacks on anti-government marches to try to protect Saleh's 32-year autocratic rule. Yemeni rights groups said the crackdown has killed more than 120 people, but it has not deterred crowds from gathering.

In the southern city of Damar, at least 18 people were injured in clashes with police and security agents after they fired tear gas, said medical officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears of backlash from authorities. An activist in the city, Abdul-Rahman Ahmed, said shots were heard but it was unclear whether it was rubber bullets or live ammunition.

Elsewhere, more than 100,000 people took to the streets in Taiz, a hotbed of protests, and large demonstrations were mounted in the port of Aden and other cities.

Many saw Saleh's comments on women as an offense because they questioned women's honor and invoked religious tradition in an attempt to stem political outrage.

On Sunday, Saleh was shown on television meeting with dozens of women. He told them: "We don't doubt our daughters, or mothers or sisters. These women are dearer and more honorable than to be offended."

Egypt's ex-premier charged with corruption

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's ex-prime minister and two other former Cabinet members were charged with corruption Sunday in the latest step in a campaign to bring officials of Hosni Mubarak's toppled regime to justice for years of corruption, rights abuses and other crimes.

Egypt's attorney-general for public funds charged former Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif, ex-Finance Minister Yousef Boutros Ghali and former Interior Minister Habib el-Adly with wasting more than $15 million in public money and profiteering, the official news agency reported.

Mubarak was forced to step down on Feb. 11 after massive protests against his three decades in power. One of the protesters' chief complaints was the corruption that pervades the government, its bureaucracy and virtually all levels of society. Also driving the campaign to bring the former president and those connected to him to trial are concerns that remnants of the regime could maintain some influence.

Mubarak and his sons were placed in custody Wednesday for 15 days while they are investigated on corruption allegations and over the deaths of hundreds of protesters in the 18-day uprising.

The case involving his prime minister and the two other ex-Cabinet ministers centers on a deal with a German businessman. They are accused of granting him a contract to sell license plates in Egypt without opening up the deal to competitive bidding. The German businessman is also charged with corruption in the case.

A trial date has not been set.

El-Adly, the ex-interior minister, is already facing trial on other corruption charges. Egypt's protest movement also wants to see him prosecuted for rights abuses carried out by the internal security forces that were under his control.

Boutros Ghali, who is outside the country, is a nephew of former U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Nazif served as prime minister since 2004.

Mubarak has remained in a hospital in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh until he can be transferred to a military hospital. He was hospitalized with unspecified heart problems on Tuesday, the same day his questioning began.

A security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the delay is primarily related to ensuring his security.

The director of the hospital in Sharm el-Sheikh, Mohamed Fadlallah, said Mubarak was in good condition.

A witness who visited the hospital said Mubarak had asked to change the sealed windows in his hospital suite for ones that open to allow in fresh air.

His two sons, businessman Alaa and banker-turned-politician Gamal, are also in detention. On Sunday, prosecutors interrogated them at Cairo's Tora prison. It had been widely believed that Mubarak was grooming Gamal to succeed him.

Fierce fighting in key city in western Libya kills 17

AJDABIYA, Libya (AP)—Holding out under a rain of shelling and sniper fire, Libyan rebels fought Moammar Gadhafi's forces Sunday in close-quarters battles in the city center of Misrata, the last major rebel foothold in western Libya. Seventeen people were killed, an NGO worker and an opposition activist said.

Government troops have been laying siege to the city on Libya's Mediterranean coast for weeks, prompting repeated international warnings of a dire humanitarian situation as well as calls for NATO forces to intensify airstrikes on Gadhafi's forces there.

On Sunday, government troops, who have pushed into the city center from the outskirts in recent days, pounded Misrata with mortar rounds and rocket-propelled grenades, said resident Abdel-Salam, who only provided his given name for fear of retribution.

"Residents have become so accustomed to the sound of mortars and missiles," he said. "Snipers are still on the roofs of tall buildings shooting at anything that moves in the city center."

Rebels fought government forces back from an area around a central produce market, regaining a small sliver of territory, said Rida al-Montasser, a local activist reached by Skype.

He said a hospital report that he received from a doctor, showed 17 people, including rebels, were killed and 74 others were injured. He said Gadhafi forces had fired at the city's hospital Sunday.

A worker for a foreign NGO who visited the hospital Sunday also said 17 bodies were brought in, including that of a girl shot in the head. Other children who had been shot were among the wounded, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he feared for his safety.

Explosions thundered late into the night, al-Montasser said.

The NATO-led air campaign authorized by the U.N. to protect civilians and enforce a no-fly zone has failed to stop government shelling that, according to residents and witnesses, has hit Misrata's hospital, the port and residential areas.

The international airstrikes have kept rebels from being defeated on the battlefield by the better trained and equipped government forces, but it still has not been enough to turn the tide in the war. In the eastern half of Libya, rebels in control of most of that part of the country since the uprising began on Feb. 15 have been unable to advance westward toward the capital.

In Paris, French Defense Minister Gerard Longuet dismissed statements from a top NATO official that the alliance is short of aircraft. Longuet said instead that NATO's mission in Libya is hampered by a lack of ground information.

3 killed at Syrian protest after Assad vows reform

BEIRUT (AP)—Gunmen opened fire during a funeral for a slain anti-government protester Sunday, killing at least three people on a day when tens of thousands of people took to the streets nationwide as part of an uprising against the country's authoritarian regime, witnesses and activists said.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the shooting at the funeral near Homs, 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the capital, Damascus.

In the past four weeks, Syrian security forces in uniforms and plainclothes have launched a deadly crackdown on demonstrations, killing at least 200 people, according to human rights groups. The government has blamed armed gangs looking to stir up unrest for many of the killings.

One witness said gunmen wearing black clothes opened fire at hundreds of people in the Talbiseh district in central Syria at a funeral for a protester who was killed Saturday. Other witnesses said they saw soldiers and security forces open fire, shooting even at homes and balconies. Dozens were wounded, they said.

A human rights activist in Damascus confirmed the three deaths, but said he had no information on who killed them. He confirmed the deaths through witnesses on the ground who saw the killings and gave him the names of the dead.

The witnesses and the activist requested anonymity for fear of reprisals from the government.

Syria's state-run news agency later said one policeman was killed and 11 other policemen and security personnel were wounded when an "armed criminal gang" opened fire on them in Talbiseh. It said the gang opened fire randomly, shutting down main streets and terrorizing residents.

The killings were bound to increase pressure on President Bashar Assad, who has tried to quell the popular uprising with a mixture of brute force and concessions.

On Saturday, he promised to end nearly 50 years of emergency rule this week, a key demand of the protesters.

But despite Assad's promises, the protest movement has grown and become much bolder. Many protesters say they will settle for nothing less than the downfall of the regime, driven by outrage over the crackdown.

Focus

Skilled Turkish immigrants leaving Germany in droves

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
ASSOCIATED PRESS



German-Turkish immigrant Lale Erdem is seen in her office in Istanbul, Turkey, Friday, Feb. 25, 2011. (AP

"My classmates told me I smelled because I didn't take enough showers and ostracized me in so many other possible ways—it was really bad. I was so unhappy that my parents eventually had to send me to a different school."

Ali-Duran Duvarci's parents brought him to Germany from Turkey as a baby—and he went on to win German citizenship, study business technology and work for a variety of companies.

Then he hit a glass ceiling.

"I sent out several applications for higher paying jobs that would have matched my qualification perfectly," said Duvarci, 40, who is married and has two children. "But I only got back letters of refusal—I think employers often throw away my applications the moment they read that Turkish name."

So Duvarci is doing what thousands of other highly skilled workers of Turkish origin have been doing even as Germany faces a severe shortage of skilled labor and a shrinking population: returning to the ancestral homeland.

Turks came in the millions to Germany in the 1960s—unskilled laborers who were part of a so-called "guest worker" program aimed at rebuilding the country from the ruins of postwar Germany. Their children were born here, grew up here, and were educated here. Many have German citizenship.

Now they are heading back in droves, saying they are still treated as outsiders in Germany and can't land the high-paying jobs that match their skills and training. Other ethnic groups express similar frustrations, but Turks are by far the biggest group.

"They no longer want to put up with daily racism, job discrimination and the fact that most German employers judge their bicultural background as a liability, not as an asset," said Ediz Bokli, who runs a job-placement agency in the northern German city of Osnabrueck that specializes in helping German professionals of Turkish descent.

Some say Germany can ill afford such an exodus of skilled labor.

The head of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, DIHK, has repeatedly warned that Germany needs to change the way it integrates its immigrants, if it doesn't want to end up with a labor shortage of five million within the next 15 years—which would also mean a shortfall of millions of people paying taxes or investing in the country's pension funds.

"We now have a lack of 400,000 engineers, master craftsmen and skilled workers," Hans Heinrich Driftmann of the DIHK said. "This way we're already losing 1 percent of our economic growth and in the future this shortage will only get worse."

The government recently announced plans to make it easier for up to 300,000 immigrants to use their skills in Germany by pushing through legislation to speed up recognition of their foreign qualifications. But it has not come up with any initiatives to help qualified second- or third-generation immigrants who were raised here.

Bokli, the 37-year-old son of Turkish immigrants, said he is getting several phone calls a day from young, frustrated university graduates of Turkish ancestry who want to move to Turkey because they hope to find better jobs there.

"The numbers of German-Turkish engineers, doctors or businessmen who want to leave this country are constantly going up," Bokli said.

Bokli's agency was so overwhelmed with requests for jobs in Turkey that half a year ago he launched Turkvita, an Internet platform for professionals searching for jobs there. Some 900 applicants have registered so far.

More than one-third of Germany's ethnic Turkish professionals and university students, many German citizens, are thinking of returning to their parents' homeland, according to a 2010 poll by Futurorg Institute in Dortmund.

The children of naturalized citizens automatically are entitled to German passports, but neither they nor their parents can keep Turkish ones. Those born to long-term immigrants who retain Turkish citizenship get Turkish and German nationality until age 23, when they have to pick one.

There are some 3 million people of Turkish origin in this country of 82 million. Around 700,000 of them carry a German passport. After steady growth for decades, the numbers dropped for the first time in 2008—by 2,200.

It is not clear exactly how many German-born professionals of Turkish origin have left the country in recent, because those with German passports don't get counted in the statistics, but experts estimate that several thousand have moved to Turkey.

It's easier to track the exodus of Turkish citizens.

In 2009, their ranks went down by more than 8,000, with some 35,400 Turkish citizens leaving Germany for good, and 27,000 moving here, according to the Federal Statistical Office.

The job frustrations expressed by Duvarci and others of Turkish origin are backed up by statistical evidence.

A recent study by the University of Konstanz shows that Turkish job applicants are 14 percent less likely to get a job than their German counterparts who are equally well qualified. At smaller companies the chances of getting invited for a job interview are even 24 percent less likely if the application comes from someone with a Turkish name.

Duvarci grew frustrated over getting several rejections and eventually contacted Bokli, who is now helping him find a job in Turkey.

"It is kind of sad, I feel at home in Germany and know Turkey only from vacation time, but if I get a job there, I'll move right away."

The country's state minister for integration announced a few weeks ago that "using the potentials of immigrants is a top priority for us."

"Given the shortage of skilled labor, our country cannot afford to lose the knowledge and qualifications of skilled immigrants," Maria Boehmer said.

However, many of the well-qualified Turkish immigrants that the government seems to have finally discovered as an asset for the country have lost patience.

Lale Erdem, who grew up near Cologne, said it was only after she moved to Turkey that people made her feel her binational heritage was an advantage.

As a child growing up in Germany, she experienced so much prejudice, that she wanted to get out of the country the moment she finished high school.

"My classmates told me I smelled because I didn't take enough showers and ostracized me in so many other possible ways—it was really bad," Erdem recalled. "I was so unhappy that my parents eventually had to send me to a different school."

The 28-year-old studied media sciences in Ankara and now works as the head of an agency in Istanbul that arranges for international, well-known figures to lecture at conferences or appear on TV shows in Turkey.

"Sometimes I still feel homesick for Germany," Erdem said in a telephone interview. "Things are done differently in Turkey and my friends here will sometimes tell me that I'm behaving like a German."

However, Erdem thinks it was the right decision to move to Turkey.

"People here understand that I have more to offer than most others because of my German and Turkish backgrounds," she said. "I just hope that Germany will also understand how much potential we have—before all of us have left the country for good."

Overdrive

Nissan Murano CrossCabriolet combines open air with utility

By SUSAN CARPENTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES



Nissan Murano CrossCabriolet combines open air with utility. MCT

With its new Murano CrossCabriolet, Nissan is hoping to change the perception that a vehicle of leisure can't also be utilitarian.

A soft-top version of its most high-end, all-wheel-drive crossover, the Murano CrossCabriolet is a spirited-yet-cushy mom mobile for those who value adventure and luxury—and sharing those experiences with the ones they love.

That was the plan for the week I had the CrossCabriolet, which arrived just as I was prepping for a weekend of rocket camp with the uniformed hordes of L.A.-area Cub Scouts.

The vehicle I was testing was an early production version of what will be in showrooms later this month. The $47,200 CrossCabriolet is available in a single trim with different color options.

Powered with the same 3.5-liter V-6 as the hardtop Murano LE and equipped with all-wheel-drive standard, the convertible is a two-door four-seater, whereas the hardtop is a four-door five-seater.

Removing the rear passenger doors gives the vehicle a cleaner, more elegant profile, while removing the middle rear seat gives travelers in the back more space and comfort.

It speaks well for the vehicle that despite the annoyance of having to fold down the front passenger seat to enter the rear bucket seats, my 8-year-old son preferred riding in the back 40. In 99 percent of the vehicles I test, he calls shotgun.

The only aspect he didn't like about the rear seat was the belts, which fastened on the door side of the back seat instead of the center, which, on the CrossCabriolet, is occupied by cup holders.

An added bonus for those traveling in the back is an up close and personal view of the convertible rooftop in action. This takes place at the push of a cockpit toggle switch, which must be held down the entire time the roof is moving.

Nissan says the canvas roof on the CrossCabriolet is the largest convertible top of any production vehicle on the market. Unfolding in five stages, it's a Transformers-esque engineering feat that takes less than 30 seconds. Unfortunately, it stopped working toward the tail end of my week with the vehicle.

It was April Fool's Day. No joke. Two days earlier, I'd successfully loaded the trunk with enough juice boxes, pasta and other foods to feed 30 people for an entire weekend without incident and with room to spare. It was only after I stuffed the trunk with squishy sleeping bags that the mechanism got confused.

Arriving at our campground to unpack, I pressed the toggle to drop the top, but it didn't fully retract. The top section of the trunk that serves as the roof's nesting place was jutting out toward the back, prompting one scouting dad to say it looked like a "rad spoiler."

There really isn't a better place for a car to malfunction than at a Cub Scout gathering filled with handy dads carrying toolkits, some of whom attempted to help with my roof, to no avail.

Pushing the toggle to put the roof back up didn't have the desired effect. Even worse, the electronic buttons to access the trunk also stopped working. And the trunk wasn't accessible through the rear seats because they do not fold down. The back-seat headrests are fixed in place as a safety mechanism in case of a rollover.

There is no separate warranty for the convertible roof; it's part of Nissan's standard three-year warranty on the Murano CrossCabriolet. A Nissan spokesman said none of the other early production CrossCabriolets in the field has experienced the roof problem, adding that my vehicle was not "100 percent production correct." Engineering refinements have since been made, he said.

As much as I applaud Nissan for its willingness to break new ground and take risks, there may be some bugs to work out with the convertible aspect of its CrossCabriolet, which was otherwise impressive.

Its interior is appointed with the usual luxuries that make life on congested roads bearable, all of which are stock: heated leather seats and steering wheel, a navigation system, Bluetooth hands-free phone calling and eight-speaker Bose audio, among other things.

The CrossCabriolet is fairly quiet, but not fixed-steel-roof quiet. Driving under overpasses, I was aware of road noise. Driving through L.A.'s many potholes, on the other hand, I was barely cognizant of the bumps because the independent strut front suspension and multi-link independent suspension in the rear were so effective in absorbing them.

Even with its convertible roof crooked and unclosed, as I drove through swarms of uniformed scouts at the Firestone Boy Scout Reservation in Brea, Calif., to swap the CrossCabriolet for a replacement car, the last words I heard were from a fellow mom: "Oh my gosh. That's so cool!"

Fix the roof mechanism, and I agree.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: $47,200 (including destination charge)
Price as tested: $47,385
Powertrain: 3.5-liter, DOHC, V-6, four valves per cylinder, six-speed with Xtronic continuously variable transmission and adaptive shift control, all-wheel drive
Horsepower: 265 at 6,000 rpm
Torque: 248 pound-feet at 4,400 rpm
Wheelbase: 111.2 inches
Overall length: 190.1 inches
Curb weight: 4,438 pounds
EPA fuel economy: 17 mpg city/22 mpg highway
Final thoughts: Adventurous, utilitarian luxury

No rush to replace timing belt on low-mileage SUV

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2004 Toyota Highlander with 22,700 miles on it. I took it in for service and was told the water pump is cracked and I should think about replacing the timing belt at the same time.

ANSWER: The shop should be able to show you the water pump crack or the stains from leaking coolant. A cracked water pump definitely should be replaced to prevent significant loss of coolant and potential overheating while driving. As for the timing belt on the 3.3-liter V6 engine, Toyota recommends replacement at 90,000 miles or nine years. While it's convenient and a labor savings to replace this belt at the same time the water pump is replaced, it's a bit premature at this point, particularly in light of the extremely low mileage.

■ ■ ■

Q: I am the original owner of a 1994 Lincoln Town Car with 81,000 miles on it. Recently, the "Brake" light came on and would not go off. I had the car towed to the dealer, but they called and said they don't have the part to fix it, and it would cost $3,000 or more to repair if they could find the part. Is the ABS module a computer or mechanical part? Do you have any suggestions?

A: The electronic brake control module is electronic, but it commands the hydraulic control unit, which operates the antilock brake system (ABS) and the traction control system.

You didn't mention whether your vehicle is equipped with traction control. I'm also concerned by your description of the "Brake" warning light coming on. This red warning light monitors the hydraulic brake system including fluid level in the master cylinder, hydraulic pressure in both halves of the brake system and the application of the parking brake. The yellow ABS/TCS warning light, on the other hand, monitors the ABS and traction control systems.

So ... which warning light is on? If both or just the red "Brake" light stay on, the problem is more likely in the basic hydraulic brake system. If only the ABS/TCS warning light is on, the problem is more likely with the antilock brake or traction control systems. A scan tool should be able to identify specific fault codes to pinpoint the problem

Check online for remanufactured components and salvage yards for used parts.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.

Side mirrors distort reflection for good reason

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: Why does a car's passenger-side mirror show objects to be farther away than they are, while the driver's side has a "regular" mirror?—Margaret Dambley

ANSWER: Good question, Margaret. Your passenger-side mirror is a convex mirror, with an outward curve in the glass surface, which allows a greater field of vision. While seated behind the wheel, your eyes are about two feet from the left side mirror and six feet from the passenger side mirror. The longer distance between eyes and passenger-side mirror would result in a narrow view down the right side of the car were it not for the mirror's assistance.

The downside of a convex mirror is that objects appear smaller, or farther away than they actually are. To best utilize a side mirror's field of vision, it's a good idea to adjust the mirror so the side of the vehicle is barely showing at the inner edge of the viewed image. This allows the widest possible viewing of angular threats. On vehicles having sufficiently large mirrors, a small, stick-on convex auxiliary mirror is a nice addition to the driver's side mirror.

■ ■ ■

Q: My battery is six years old. I know this is pretty old. Is there a way to test it (at home) to know if it's still dependable?—Jerry Lieman

A: You're correct that this is a mature battery. How did the engine start this past winter? If all seemed well on the coldest mornings, this is encouraging. A professional might test your battery in one of two ways—either a traditional load test, or a more techie check of the battery's cell conductance.

Let's create a home version of the load test.

Using a simple voltmeter—the Sears Craftsman Digital Mini Multimeter, model #82345, is a superb value at $22—check the battery's open-circuit voltage, meaning nothing is turned on. A fully charged battery in good condition should read 12.6 volts or higher.

Next, if possible, determine a method of disabling the vehicle's fuel system, such as by removing the fuel pump fuse or unplugging fuel injectors. Now crank the engine for fifteen seconds with meter leads clipped on to the battery terminals, observing battery voltage on the meter. If the voltage remains steady and above 11 volts, it's still in competent condition. Should the voltage fall below 10 volts or noticeably decline while cranking the starter, I'd start shopping for a battery now. If the readings fall somewhere between these two values, I'd consider renewing the battery in October or November, before the onset of cold weather.

A less invasive but less conclusive test method is to observe the battery's open-circuit voltage, then turn on the headlights, with the car's key turned to "off," for fifteen minutes. If the battery voltage dips below 12.3 volts or if the engine is noticeably slow to crank afterward, the battery is in marginal to poor condition. To play it safe, before employing either of these methods, be sure you have the means to jump-start or recharge the battery, should the battery be in poor condition.

The easiest option may be to ask for a free battery test at an auto parts store. Ask for an interpretation of condition rather than a simple pass/fail pronouncement. On the three differing conductance testers I use in class, each will "fail" a battery that's still 49 percent capable. With mild weather and a pair of jumper cables onboard, one could stretch such a battery for at least another two or three years.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style



AP

This July 31, 2010 file photo released by Genevieve de Manio Photography shows former President Bill Clinton walking his daughter Chelsea down the isle for her wedding in Rhinebeck, N.Y.

Middleton's gown likely to be an influential one

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—When Kate Middleton walks down the aisle this month to marry Prince William, watching would-be brides almost certainly will home in on her dress.

Bridal industry insiders expect her gown to be copied many times over as soon as the public gets its first glimpse.

Some wedding dresses leave a legacy beyond the next-day knockoffs: Princess Diana's grand gown, Grace Kelly's glamorous one, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy's simple tank, and especially Queen Victoria's white ball gown changed the way brides dressed for years to come.

Middleton's is likely to fall into that category.

"Kate's dress will be an important dress, one that will be talked about for the rest of time," says Millie Martini Bratten, editor-in-chief of Brides magazine.

Diana's dress helped define the grandeur of fashion in the early 1980s, Martini Bratten says, but Middleton's might be even more influential because women relate to her as a 29-year-old with a developed sense of style, compared with the 19-year-old Diana, whose gown probably was chosen by committee.

Also, pictures of Middleton's gown will be posted online immediately for discussion and critique, notes Darcy Miller, editor in chief of Martha Stewart Weddings. "It's amazing how much brides are influenced by what other people wear, especially royals, celebrities, presidents' daughters. Before Chelsea Clinton's wedding was over, every bride saw that Vera Wang dress and wanted some version of it," Miller says.

Celebrity red-carpet looks are adapted for the aisle, says Marchesa co-founder and designer Georgina Chapman, but many women have been thinking about their fantasy gowns for a long time and do not turn on a dime. "Wedding gowns are unlike any other dresses," she says, because brides' decisions "are often less trend-driven, and more personally focused on how they want to look and feel on their wedding day."

Still, a princess holds particular sway because of the fairy-tale aspect of weddings.

"A royal element makes it more dreamlike, and a wedding day is your time to look like a princess," says Kimberly Lee Minor, chief fashion strategist of the bridal label Priscilla of Boston, which made gowns for the daughters of Presidents Johnson and Nixon.

Some famous brides who set fashion trends:

■ **Queen Victoria.** This was the game-changer—quite the feat in 1840. Until then, white had not been THE color of wedding dresses, explains Miller. Women wore their best dress, no matter the hue.

White was sometimes seen as a sign of affluence because it meant you could afford to get the dress dirty, but brides did not run out and get one just for this occasion until Victoria.

■ **Jacqueline Kennedy**. Kennedy "was a major fashion influence her whole life," so Ann Lowe's dramatic portrait-neck gown with an exaggerated hourglass shape, and pleating details fashioned into flowers and a tiered hemline suited her, says Miller. The bit of skin showing at the neckline also fit the image of the socialite marrying a dashing young senator, ushering in a new guard.

The dress might have been "too couture" and not princess-y enough for the masses, making it less influential at the time, Martini Bratten says, although she sees hints of this dress on the runways now.

■ **Grace Kelly.** Actress Kelly's gown, made by costumer Helen Rose and the wardrobe department at MGM, was "truly designed by Hollywood," says Martini Bratten.

There was a high neckline, a cinched waist and a big ball skirt, all befitting a new royal. The collar, sleeves and overlay were lace, so there was still a glimpse at the more revealing sweetheart bodice, more in line with what one would expect from a movie star.

"The silhouette was so classic and beautiful," observes Marchesa's Chapman. "It's just as breathtaking today as it was over 50 years ago."

The illusion lace trick also was featured on Elizabeth Taylor's wedding gown in the 1950 film "Father of the Bride." Rose also designed that.

■ **Tricia Nixon.** Her White House wedding in 1971, and the Priscilla Kidder gown she chose, became the fantasy of young women across America, says vintage fashion expert Shareen Mitchell, whose TV series "Dresscue Me" launches this month on Planet Green.

It was not necessarily what was expected of a president's daughter. There was little pomp and circumstance to the sleeveless, V-neck gown, which was covered in lace but still showed a slim-cut line underneath. "She wore what every woman wanted to wear," says Mitchell, who still fields requests for this style today.

■ **Bianca Jagger.** Neither a princess, presidential relative nor movie star, Jagger created a sensation as a fashion rebel when she married Mick Jagger in a Savile Row-made pantsuit, also in 1971. She represented the other end of the spectrum

See MIDDLETON'S on next page

Plan to save your dress? Take care of it now

By LISA FLAM
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CROTON-ON-HUDSON, New York (AP)—After Barbara Hart's wedding in 1989, her mom took care of the dirty work.

She had Hart's 1950s lace gown repaired, cleaned and preserved, boxed up and ready for another bride in the family. It was late last year, though, when Hart's niece, who was considering wearing the gown, opened the box, only to learn it held the wrong dress.

"It was very upsetting to me. It's all this connection to your younger life. A connection to my mother, to a moment in time," said Hart, 50, of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, whose mother has since died. "You're just losing the thread of this connection."

So much thought goes into selecting a wedding gown, but once the celebration is over, the dress begins to fade into the background. Experts say that right after the wedding, however, is precisely the time to make sure everything is in order so your dress is pristine if you want to wear it again for an anniversary, have it made into a christening gown, or hand it down to a daughter or other loved one.

Hart doesn't know what instructions her mother was given about opening or not opening the box, and the dry cleaner that worked on it has since changed hands.

"My advice is that people should open the box and inspect it, and make sure they have the right dress and it's properly done at the time," said Hart, a lawyer.

Mix-ups are more common than you might think. Hart said an acquaintance of hers heard her story and opened her box to find a different dress too.

"The problem of the wrong dress is endemic in the industry," said Sally Conant, executive director of the Association of Wedding Gown Specialists. "Ask to inspect your dress."

A preservationist for 20 years, Conant said the wrong-dress-in-the-box scenario happens less frequently now because most preservations are done in boxes that aren't sealed, though some still are.

Conant, of Orange, Connecticut, said she packs the dress in front of the bride. Many gown specialists now feel it's OK for people to open the box later, she said; it won't void the guarantee against yellowing.

"It's fun for them to see it again," she said, "and they like to reassure themselves."

The association, which has members in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Ecuador, requires gowns to be preserved in acid-free boxes.

Margaret's Cleaners, a member in La Jolla, California, packs the gowns in chests with acid-free tissue and wraps the gowns in unbleached muslin. The box is put into a muslin bag to keep out environmental debris. The boxes aren't sealed, and white gloves are provided so oil from your hands won't mar the fabric.

"We want our brides to be able to open the box and examine it every couple of years" in case any yellow spots start to show, says bridal director Jan Bohn.

Methods that involve shrink-wrapping or vacuum-sealing the boxes, which then must remain closed, are not recommended by Conant and Heather Levine, fashion editor of TheKnot.com. "Vacuum-packing your gown can cause permanent wrinkles, or trap moisture," which can cause mildew, Levine said.

Cleaning the dress soon after the wedding is key to preventing discoloration and fabric damage.

At Margaret's, each gown is evaluated to determine how it should be cleaned, Bohn said. Her business has seven methods.

Cleaners remove blemishes that are visible (the most common is floor dirt) and invisible (usually perspiration, or sugar from Champagne, soda or frosting).

"If you do nothing, they will oxidize in a couple years," Bohn said. "You'll start seeing small yellow or brown marks, and then they grow and get bigger and they can damage the material."

Conant estimates that 80 percent of gowns have invisible stains, which cleaners find with special lights. "A lot of times people will think they didn't spill anything," she said. "But a friend throws her arms around you and in her hand is a glass of wine ..."

Levine urges brides who want to save their gown to use a gown specialist, or a local dry cleaner that handles at least 100 wedding gowns a year.

"You can't just go to the dry cleaner on the corner," she said. "On a day-to-day basis, most dry cleaners aren't working with silk organza and heavy beading."

The Knot puts the national average cost of cleaning and preserving a wedding gown at $200 to $400; Conant at $250 to $300. Bohn says her services start at $325 and have reached $1,000. It depends on how much damage has been done, how the dress is constructed and what it's made of, Bohn said.

Conant estimates that 25 percent of brides preserve their gowns, while many resell them. Brides spent an average $1,099 on gowns last year, according to Levine.

Wedding planner Barbara Wallace says one-third to one-half of her high-end clients have their gowns preserved. "By the time you've spent $5,000 or

See PLAN on next page

That personal touch? Say it with a cake topper

By HILLARY SPEED
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The only part of a wedding cake that does not get eaten, preserved in the freezer, or smudged across a bride or groom's face is the cake topper. Why not make it something worth saving?

From wooden figurines to monogrammed eggs in a nest to teacups from Grandma's china cabinet, cake toppers at weddings have become more personalized.

Increasingly, couples are working with artists to design the perfect cake topper, unique to them.

"The cake topper is one of the few things that will be part of the wedding that the couple will take home afterward and maybe display in their house," said Portland, Oregon-based artist Hilary Pfeifer, who designs customized cake toppers.

"It's not just a plastic topper that they use for that day; it becomes an icon in their house afterward," she said.

Pfeifer sells her cake toppers out of her online shop, Bunny with a Toolbelt (www.bunnywithatoolbelt.com). The figurines are made of reclaimed wood and painted with acrylic. They are typically animals, and often are customized to fit a couple's tastes and interests.

Pfeifer's creations have run the gamut from colorful elephants for a circus-themed wedding, to a pair of robots with a robot dog, to a duck bride and groom wearing Converse sneakers.

She has made cake-topper alligators, deer, squirrels, giraffes, flamingos, turtles, penguins, monsters, space monkeys, flying pigs and more. Often they are turned into sports mascots.

"Having customers bring you ideas is great," Pfeifer said. "It takes me places I wouldn't have gone on my own."

Another artist who has worked with brides and grooms to customize cake toppers is Heather Ward-Migner, based in Asheville, North Carolina. Through her online store, Star House (www.urastarhouse.com), Ward-Migner sells a variety of figurines made of local poplar wood that are then cut, burned and painted with watercolors to create specific images.

Her cake toppers have included couples on double bicycles, pairs of love birds, and a bride and groom in a yellow canoe.

Typically, her wooden characters are based on a photograph, and closely resemble the actual couple, a far cry from the standardized cake toppers of yore.

The effort that goes into creating such a personal memento contributes to its ultimate staying power.

"I love thinking about how 100 years from now some bohemian college students might have their grandparents' cake toppers displayed in their apartment," Ward-Migner said.

The customization of wedding cake toppers is still a niche trend, but one that has been growing, according to Anja Winikka, senior editor at TheKnot.com.

"Your wedding cake as a whole is such a great way to add your own personality, and it's a great way to make a statement at your wedding without going over the top," Winikka said. "The cake topper falls into that category as well."

She has seen various handcrafted toppers recently. Love birds are a popular choice, she said, including options made out of felt, fabric, wood or other materials.

Winikka also has seen the vintage craze enter the wedding-cake-topper arena. Couples are reviving their parents' and grandparents' cake toppers as their own.

You can also creatively use trinkets from your grandparents or tiny teacups from their china cabinet as your cake topper, she suggested.

In the case of a cake or cupcake tower that is not suited to having a topper, the bridal couple can turn the entire cake table into a sort of display area with mementos or figurines that add personality, Winikka said.

"I've definitely noticed that when a normal person thinks of a wedding cake topper, they think of the plastic bride and groom," said wedding planner Laura Auer, whose company is about to plan its 300th wedding.

"But I've probably seen that only five out of the 300 times. People want different skin tones, or they aren't male-female couples, or they just don't want old-school traditional bride-and-groom cake toppers."

Auer started her Brooklyn, New York-based company, Blue Canary Events, in 2005, and has seen a trend toward unique cake toppers.

In addition to art pieces custom-designed for the couple, she has noticed a lot of monogrammed cake toppers, sometimes very ornate, made of crystal or pretty much any other material.

If the bride is taking her husband's last name, it is not proper etiquette to use that married name until after the couple have taken their vows, Auer said. So having it on the cake might be a fun way to introduce the new shared initial for the first time.

Other popular options are edible or floral cake toppers: real decorative flowers, fruit or flowers made of frosting.



This product image courtesy of Start House shows a cake topper by Heather Ward-Migner. Her cake toppers have included couples on double bicycles, pairs of love birds, and a bride and groom in a yellow canoe. Typically, her wooden characters are based on a photograph, and closely resemble the actual couple.
AP

MIDDLETON'S

From Page 19

■ **Ivanka Trump.** Donald Trump's daughter's 2009 wedding was not a global news event, but her lace gown by Wang became a sensation because it showed a fresh, feminine way to wear sleeves, which had largely fallen out of favor. Trump's dress, with its illusion lace neckline, was inspired by Kelly's, although this had a cleaner, more contemporary silhouette.

"The way Ivanka Trump presented herself was, 'Even when you have all the money in the world, and you're glamorous, you can present yourself at your wedding as demure, understated, ladylike and beautiful,'" says Mitchell. "It was so refreshing."

■ **Michelle Obama**. Obama's long-sleeve, portrait-collar wedding dress was one of her few fashion decisions that did not move the needle. That was back in 1992, though.

Her one-shoulder, white inaugural gown by Jason Wu, however, turned into a bona fide bridal-gown sensation, says Miller.

It came at the right time, as designers continued to move away from all strapless all the time, Miller observes, and Obama wore it with the happy, confident attitude that brides strive for.

■ **Chelsea Clinton**. No one, including Clinton and designer Wang, expected the media circus that accompanied last year's wedding, says Miller, but all those photos and that attention meant that a lot of gowns coming out now were inspired by the delicate strapless with a jeweled waistband. "It was copied in the industry immediately. It's the classic, romantic, fairy-tale dress on a modern woman," says Miller.

Clinton might not normally be considered a style influence, but in that dress, she became a trendsetter, agrees Minor.

PLAN

From Page 19

$10,000 or more, it seems silly not to spend that few extra dollars to keep it nice," said Wallace, of Corona del Mar, California.

Some dresses may be lost to the post-wedding trash-the-dress phenomenon, which has brides donning their gowns to wade into the ocean or frolic in the mud for the camera. But even with a trashing, most gowns can still be saved. "If it's not silk, we can return it to almost like new," Conant says.

For many women, though, the sentimental attachment to the gown is strong. Hart recalls that her mother hoped Hart would have a daughter who would wear the now-missing lace dress. That daughter, now 9, was sad to learn the gown was gone.

"My daughter's face just fell," Hart said. "It's very sad to me because ... I'm not able to live out a dream my mother had for me."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS
Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!
Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000
POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI
$5.75 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.75 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.75 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.75 Military with Valid I.D.
TIMEWARP TUESDAY $5.75 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)
RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com
dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS
For Friday, April 15th through Thursday, April 21st, 2011
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
NOW SHOWING

Rio
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Anne Hathaway, will.i.am
Children's/family • Rated G
Synopsis
Rio is a comedy-adventure-love story between two rare macaws. Rio movie is somewhere between being production and post-production. The story is about a geeky macaw that travels from his small home in Minnesota to the complexity of the Rio de Janeiro. He gets on the adventure of a lifetime, learning to open himself up to all that life has to offer along the way.

Scream 4
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Neve Campbell, David Arquette
Horror • Rated R
Synopsis
The Scream franchise returns from the dead in Wes Craven's fourth entry of the Dimension Films slasher series. Neve Campbell, David Arquette, and Courteney Cox Arquette return to their iconic roles dating back to the original breakthrough film in 1996.

Arthur
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Russell Brand, Jennifer Garner
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Arthur is a sweet but wildly irresponsible playboy whose millions have left him lonely and with no motivation in life. On the threshold of an arranged marriage with a simpering socialite whom he does not love, Arthur meets the spunky, blue-collar waitress Linda Marolla, and falls head over heels.

Your Highness
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
James Franco, Natalie Portman
Comedy • Rated R

Hanna
Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Saoirse Ronan, Cate Blanchett
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Hop
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
James Marsden, Russell Brand
Children's/Family • Rated PG

Source Code
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Monaghan
Science fiction, Thriller • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.
www.gohollywood.com

Film fans head for 'Rio,' shrug over new 'Scream'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie fans are going to "Rio" in big numbers, but they're not quite screaming over the latest installment of a horror-comedy franchise.

The 20th Century Fox animated family flick "Rio," featuring the voices of Anne Hathaway and Jesse Eisenberg, led the weekend box office with a healthy $40 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It was the best debut so far this year, topping another animated comedy, "Rango," by about $2 million.

The slasher comedy "Scream 4," released by the Weinstein Co. banner Dimension Films, opened at No. 2 with just $19.3 million. That's a fraction of the business for the previous two sequels, which both debuted at over $30 million more than a decade ago.

Business finally climbed for Hollywood, which has been in a prolonged slide. Revenues rose for only the second time since last November, coming in at $134 million, up 12 percent compared to the same weekend last year, when "Kick-Ass" led with $19.8 million.

"I'm going to be so bold as to say this may be the beginning of the turnaround," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "Summer's almost here and it's the most important movie-going season. It couldn't be coming at a better time."

After two weekends in the No. 1 spot, Russell Brand's Easter bunny tale "Hop" slipped to third-place with $11.2 million. Released by Universal, "Hop" raised its total to $82.6 million.

The weekend's other new wider release, director Robert Redford's Lincoln-assassination drama "The Conspirator," premiered at No. 9 with $3.9 million. The movie stars Robin Wright and James McAvoy in a courtroom tale of a woman accused of aiding Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth.



AP

In this publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, the animated character Blu, voiced by Jesse Eisenberg, is shown in a scene from "Rio."

Released by Roadside Attractions, "The Conspirator" played in narrower release of 707 theaters, roughly one-fifth the cinema count for the weekend's top three movies.

"Rio" opened well above Fox studio expectations. A tale of romance and smuggling involving rare birds, "Rio" opened overseas a week earlier and has climbed to a $168 million total worldwide.

"It's working in every country on the planet," said Fox distribution executive Bert Livingston. "It's G-rated, which means it's for everybody."

With many children out of school over the next week leading into Easter, "Rio" has solid playing time ahead of it, Livingston said.

Receipts for "Scream 4" came in a bit under industry expectations and well below the $30-million-plus openings for "Scream 2" and "Scream 3."

"Would we have liked to have done more? Yeah, absolutely, but I don't think anyone was expecting $30 million," said Erik Lomis, head of distribution for the Weinstein Co. "But I think it's a solid opening, particularly given how the films have been performing lately in the marketplace. R-rated films have been having a tougher time."

1. **"Rio,"** $40 million.
2. **"Scream 4,"** $19.3 million.
3. **"Hop,"** $11.2 million.
4. **"Soul Surfer,"** $7.4 million.
5. **"Hanna,"** $7.3 million.
6. **"Arthur,"** $6.94 million.
7. **"Insidious,"** $6.9 million.
8. **"Source Code,"** $6.3 million.
9. **"The Conspirator,"** $3.92 million.
10. **"Your Highness,"** $3.9 million.

"Scream 4" reunites the stars of the original three movies—Neve Campbell, Courtney Cox and David Arquette—and adds new young cast members including Emma Roberts, Hayden Panettiere and Rory Culkin.

The movie hurls the cast into a fresh blood fest as bodies pile up in a manner mimicking events of the first movie.

An 11-year hiatus since "Scream 3" may have created a disconnect between the franchise and the typically young horror crowd. Just 54 percent of the audience was under 25, a segment that typically accounts for about 75 percent of horror fans, Lomis said.

Weinstein executives are hoping word of mouth among those younger viewers will bring in new fans and carry the movie along in the coming weeks. That's what happened with the original "Scream," which opened with just $6.4 million in 1996 but became a $100 million word-of-mouth hit.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Volunteers strive to heal veterans scarred by war

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: Large numbers of veterans are returning home with a wide range of psychological difficulties, many struggling with severe physical injuries or traumatic brain injuries. One in 10 soldiers reports mental health problems, while 30 percent of U.S. troops develop serious mental health problems within three to four months of coming home.

Post-traumatic stress is a natural human reaction to horrific experiences. The symptoms of PTSD are greatly reduced if appropriate treatment is provided quickly to those in need. Individuals who suffer from traumatic brain injuries also experience consequences such as anxiety, depression, substance abuse and marital difficulties. And children whose parents suffer from PTSD are more likely to develop symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Give an Hour is a nonprofit organization that has established a national network of more than 5,300 licensed mental health professionals who provide free mental health services to U.S. troops, their families and communities affected by the current military conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Each one gives an hour each week to provide free mental health services to military personnel and their families. In addition, these volunteers work to educate the public and the military community to reduce the stigma so often associated with mental health issues.

Give an Hour offers immediate access to services for people who might fail to seek help through the military or Veterans Administration. Parents, siblings, unmarried partners and other loved ones are typically not covered by military insurance. However, they, too, are often adversely affected and can benefit from the professional help our organization offers.

Thank you for helping to spread the word about our services.

LAUREN ITZKOWITZ, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

DEAR LAUREN: I salute your efforts. The service that Give an Hour is offering is vital, and I'm pleased to alert readers that it is available.

Readers, in addition to providing easy and free care for as long as it's needed, this organization is following the example of service embodied by so many of our military men and women. There are providers in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Guam and Puerto Rico. To find one, log on to www.giveanhour.org and use the ZIP code search. If there is no provider in your area, the organization can be contacted at info@giveanhour.org, and a provider will be located for you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My elderly father has been a widower for many years. His neighbor, also his age, recently lost her husband, and they have been spending a lot of time together. He takes her shopping, she cooks for him, etc. My concern is twofold: One, this woman is not in good health, and I can't bear to see Dad heartbroken again when she dies. My second concern is the woman and her husband never even invited Dad over for a cup of coffee after Mom died, but now that she's a widow, she all of a sudden wants to be "neighborly." I'd like to ask her why. Would I be out of line?

LOOKING OUT FOR MY DAD

DEAR LOOKING OUT: Yes, you would. Your question would likely be regarded as hostile by both your father and the neighbor because that's the way it comes across to me.

While you may feel protective, please recognize that your father is an adult and, presumably, able to take care of himself. At this point in his life he doesn't need you to look out for him. Only if asked should you venture an opinion like the one you have confided to me.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Dick, Jerry Van Dyke team in 'Sunshine Boys'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jerry Van Dyke says he had to push his older brother, Dick, into joining him on stage in "The Sunshine Boys," but the pair are making "magic" together.

In the Neil Simon comedy at a Malibu theater, the siblings play aged ex-vaudevillians who reunite for a TV special despite a longtime feud.

Jerry Van Dyke says that opening night on Wednesday was "fantastic" and drew big audience laughs. He says the scenes in which their characters fight were real crowd-pleasers, especially given their age: he is 79 and Dick Van Dyke is 85.

The Malibu Stage Company production is a limited-run fundraiser for the theater and ends Sunday. But Jerry Van Dyke says there have been nibbles from Broadway—if he can talk his brother into it.

Gordon-Levitt in new sci-fi film after 'Inception'



AP

In this photo taken on Jan. 18, 2009, actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt of "500 Days of Summer" poses for a portrait at the Gibson Guitar Lounge during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

SHANGHAI (AP)—After traveling to Japan for a dream-reading assignment in "Inception," Joseph Gordon-Levitt has taken on another sci-fi picture that brings him to Asia—the China-set action-thriller "Looper."

Promoting the movie in the eastern Chinese financial center of Shanghai on Sunday, the 30-year-old American actor said, "I feel now, doing 'Looper,' is the result of what happened with 'Inception.' It is something I have been working for my whole life."

Directed by Rian Johnson, "Looper" also co-stars Bruce Willis, Emily Blunt and Chinese actress Xu Qing.

Xu said Sunday that "It is like nothing I have seen before. It has action. It has romance. It also deals with philosophy. I really like it."

Reports: Van Morrison had a 'love child' with a Texan

DUBLIN (AP)—Newspapers have published evidence they say proves that singer Van Morrison fathered a child out of wedlock with one of his U.S. tour promoters.

Morrison flatly denied knowing the Texas mother, GiGi Lee, when his website published an announcement on Dec. 29, 2009, of the birth of "little Van."

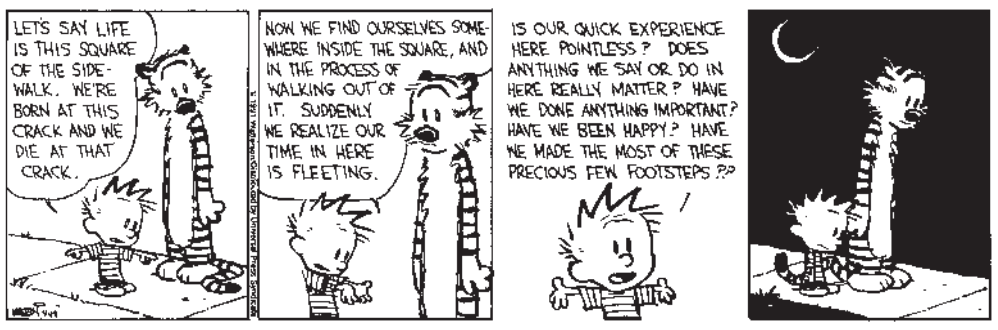
The 65-year-old singer instructed his Irish publicist to say he didn't even know the purported mother, identified incorrectly as "his wife GiGi." Then he won a court injunction barring two British newspapers that had identified her from publishing any of their evidence.

That injunction was overturned last week. The two Sunday newspapers, The Mail on Sunday and News of the World, published front-page exposes detailing Morrison's connections to Lee and the baby boy.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



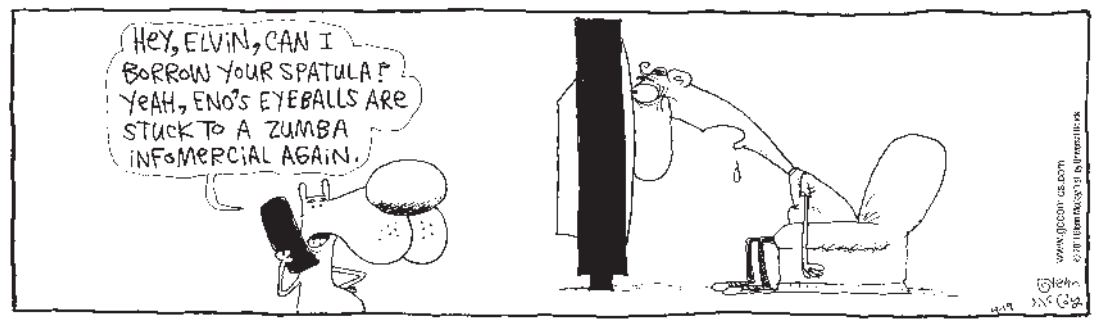
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

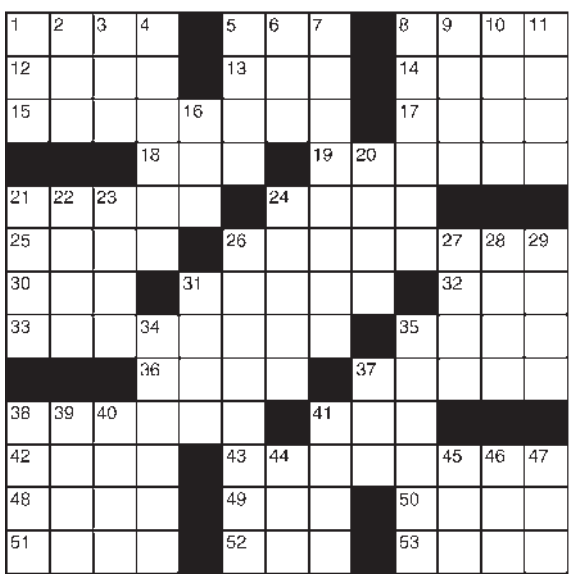
ACROSS
1 Hair salon request
5 Witness
8 Poker variety
12 Vicinity
13 Skillet
14 Walking stick
15 Argument concluder
17 Discourteous
18 — for tat
19 Speechmaker
21 Poe's bird
24 Attract
25 Winged
26 Jet-setter's way of life
30 Error
31 Vaults
32 St. leader
33 Reincarnationist's belief
35 Anger
36 Nephew of Donald Duck
37 Baseball's "Hammerin' Hank"
38 Attribute
41 Remnant
42 Phobia
43 Very strong, as a stomach
48 Tenant's payment
49 Mentalist's claim
50 Car
51 Wild revelry
52 Firmament
53 Allows

DOWN
1 Chum
2 Mound stat
3 In medias —
4 Count
5 Location
6 Listener
7 Check beneficiary
8 Illegible writing
9 Lacking slack
10 Loosen
11 Antelope's playmate
16 Triumph
20 "Darn it!"
21 Grate
22 Others (Lat.)
23 Moving vehicles
24 Inane
26 Opaque-glazed earthenware pieces
27 Culture medium
28 "Forget it!"
29 Still
31 Hit hard
34 Minimum age of a U.S. senator
35 Arranged like spokes
37 Pismire
38 Roundish coiffure
39 Crystal gazer
40 Crooned
41 Catch sight of
44 Inquire
45 Regret
46 Mel of baseball
47 Ph. bk. data

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	K	E	■	H	E	M	A	N	■	S	T	Y
I	O	G	■	A	N	I	F	■	I	R	F	■
F	I	G	H	T	C	L	U	B	■	G	U	N
■	■	■	O	H	O	■	M	U	S	H	E	S
F	A	T	T	E	D	■	S	L	O	T	■	■
O	B	I	■	D	E	B	■	A	R	R	A	S
R	U	G	S	■	D	I	M	■	T	E	L	L
E	T	H	O	S	■	P	A	C	■	A	T	A
■	■	T	U	T	U	■	R	A	N	D	O	M
M	I	R	R	O	R	■	C	S	A	■	■	■
C	D	O	■	L	I	G	H	T	Y	E	A	R
A	L	P	■	E	A	S	E	L	■	R	I	P
T	E	E	■	S	H	A	D	E	■	A	R	M

Yesterday's answer 4-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayden Christensen, 30; Kate Hudson, 32; James Franco, 33; Ashley Judd, 43

Happy Birthday: The emphasis should be on how you can stabilize your financial future. Make sure you are in a position to make a decision that can alter your lifestyle and your professional future. Change will come about in an unusual way and the transformation will be exciting and intense. The better prepared, the easier it will be to adjust. Your numbers are 9, 17, 21, 24, 33, 36, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Uncertainty will be your downfall. Size up whatever situation you face and make a decision or someone will do it for you. You may not relish your current situation but, if you're patient, things will turn out reasonably well. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take on more responsibility. What appears to be good fortune is more than likely false. There will be too many facts that haven't been revealed for you to make an accurate assessment regarding a job that interests you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Help an acquaintance meet a deadline and you'll form a friendship you can count on. Your versatility will surprise someone in a position to offer you cash for your services. Creative financial budgeting will solve your problem. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Check out what everyone has to offer before you decide what you will contribute. Too much responsibility will weigh you down, causing anxiety and a disgruntled attitude. Socialize with someone you love or who is sympathetic to your situation. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take care of any of the demands being put on you by a family member. Once you clear up what needs doing, you will be free to get involved in projects, events or activities that will contribute to your emotional or financial well-being. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put pressure on people who owe you a favor or cash. It's time to collect and to move on. A connection you make to someone who shares your opinion and lifestyle will show potential, either personally or professionally. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be limited by someone's actions if you don't speak up. Applying a little force may be necessary if you don't want to take on burdens that don't belong to you. Rely on past experience or someone who has dealt with a similar situation. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Social activities should include colleagues, friends and family. Mixing the people you like will give you greater freedom to put your time and energy where you feel it's most required, without facing any complaints. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Finish what you start, especially at home and for those dependent on you. A secret meeting or relationship you have may be consuming too much of your time. Emotional deception will lead to an unsavory situation. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't be too eager to pay for friends, lovers or anyone trying to get something for nothing. Before you offer assistance, make sure the motives on both sides are legitimate. Communications can turn ugly pretty quickly, if you aren't careful how you handle situations you face. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Adapt one of your attributes, skills or talents as your focus for future goals. Whatever you enjoy doing most should be turned into a serviceable endeavor that can enhance your financial status. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look over your budget and financial situation before you proceed with any business plan. Consider taking on a partner who can offer whatever you might be lacking in experience. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are trendy, determined and intent on reaching your goals. You are easily irritated and are fearless in challenging any opposition you face.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		2		1		6	7
6				3				1
					4			
4				1		6		9
	7						1	
3		5		2				4
			4					
8				6				2
1	2		3		7		5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	8	6	4	7	5	2	3
5	3	7	8	2	1	9	4	6
4	2	6	3	9	5	7	8	1
6	5	9	7	1	4	2	3	8
8	4	1	2	5	3	6	7	9
3	7	2	9	6	8	4	1	5
7	1	5	4	3	9	8	6	2
2	8	3	5	7	6	1	9	4
9	6	4	1	8	2	3	5	7

Difficulty Level ★

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JARRING YOUR OWN FOOD Solution: 8 letters

N	E	D	A	M	E	M	O	H	P	S	A	L	S	A
D	I	C	T	I	U	R	F	Ⓑ	E	E	T	S	T	S
S	O	A	O	S	A	L	T	Ⓞ	P	H	O	E	Y	P
S	T	O	R	R	A	C	P	Ⓘ	P	C	D	L	L	A
M	O	O	F	D	N	L	R	Ⓛ	E	A	E	B	T	R
S	E	L	R	H	O	L	D	I	R	E	T	A	H	A
R	Z	I	D	E	R	U	C	E	S	P	A	T	G	G
E	I	V	S	A	D	F	I	T	E	P	L	E	I	U
B	S	E	E	T	S	N	O	V	S	O	O	G	T	S
M	E	S	P	M	I	R	R	E	I	L	S	E	S	T
U	L	S	A	D	I	E	G	A	T	N	I	V	E	Y
C	K	J	R	N	S	M	O	K	E	D	E	O	V	L
U	C	A	G	E	G	G	P	L	A	N	T	G	R	E
C	I	L	R	A	G	L	A	S	S	R	E	T	A	W
G	P	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	C	U	A	S	H	R

© 2011 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 4/19

Asparagus, Beets, Boil, Carrots, Corn, Crisp, Cucumbers, Drain, Eggplant, Food, Fruit, Full, Garlic, Giardiniera, Glass, Grapes, Harvest, Hold, Homemade, Isolated, Jams, Oils, Olives, Peaches, Peppers, Pickles, Plum, Prepare, Preserve, Salsa, Salt, Sauce, Secured, Size, Smoked, Sold, Stored, Storing, Style, Tightly, Vegetables, Vinegar, Vintage, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Polynesian

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for water truck, 3k to 3.5k gals/cap. Must be in good cond. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317 look for Jeremy or Norma

FOR SALE

Bar Gaia for Sale. Behind Tony Roma's, Garapan. Steve: 483-3415/steve78chae@gmail.com

WHATZIT Solution: Milk shake

"My wish is to see my Dad and two brothers!"
share the power of a wish℠
Saipan Tribune

MAKE-A-WISH®
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293 • Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily



Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Please call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MILK

WHATZIT? © 2011 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Paul leads Hornets past Lakers in stunning opener

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Chris Paul and a few teammates sneaked across the street from their hotel to Staples Center the night before the New Orleans Hornets began the postseason, eagerly hoisting up a few shots in the shadows of the Lakers' imposing championship banners.

With their tumultuous regular season finally a memory, Paul said the Hornets were almost unbearably eager for the playoffs to start.

Maybe that's why New Orleans got the drop on the defending champs in a stunning series opener.

Paul had 33 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds, flawlessly leading the Hornets down the stretch of a 109-100 victory Sunday.

Carl Landry scored 17 points and Jarrett Jack added 15 for the seventh-seeded Hornets, who overcame Los Angeles' major size advantage with cagey defense and a disciplined offensive approach that led to just three turnovers, tying an NBA playoff record.

New Orleans also got a phenomenal game from Paul, who scored 17 points in the fourth quarter and led a decisive 8-0 run after the Lakers trimmed their lead to four points. Repeatedly shredding Los Angeles' defense on pick-and-roll plays, the four-time All-Star was at his playmaking apex.

"I've struggled all season long, trying to figure out where to pick my spots," said Paul, who inscribed his sneakers with the No. 30 of injured teammate David West, New Orleans' leading scorer. "It's the playoffs. It's a whole other energy."

Game 2 is Wednesday at Staples Center.

A few hours after eighth-seeded Memphis produced a series-opening surprise in San Antonio, Paul and his Hornets put another intriguing wrinkle in the NBA postseason.

Kobe Bryant scored 34 points for the Lakers, who opened the postseason with the same halfhearted effort that comprised much of their regular season after three straight exhausting trips to the NBA finals.



AP

New Orleans Hornets guard Chris Paul, left, puts up a shot as Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant defends during the second half of an NBA playoff basketball game, Sunday, April 17, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles' 7-foot starters, Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum, were widely expected to be an awful matchup for smallish New Orleans, but New Orleans rookie coach Monty Williams concocted an impressive game plan to minimize the big men's impact.

"Our defense, I thought, was late," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "I think we were late on everything. They were the aggressors, and they stayed aggressive. ... I think they respect the Hornets. I just don't think they were keyed in on what they have to do."

Ron Artest had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who swept the four-game regular-season series with New Orleans. They had won their last six playoff series openers since Houston beat them in the Western Conference semifinals in 2009 on Los Angeles' way to Bryant's fourth championship.

Los Angeles never grabbed a second-half lead despite another dynamite game from Bryant. The most glaring problem was Gasol, who struggled to eight points—just two more than his season low—on 2-for-9 shooting with just six rebounds.

A few people in the Staples Center crowd pointedly heckled Gasol in the final minutes, while other fans booed as they streamed out of the building.

"I'm disappointed, yeah. Stunned, surprised," Gasol said. "But we were the ones responsible for that to happen, so we have to own up to that and come back to work in the next couple of days and get the series where we want it to be."

The playoff pressure of Staples Center clearly didn't bother the Hornets, who lost West to a serious knee injury last month and lost three straight games to finish the regular season. Williams made his playoff debut along with Emeka Okafor, Marco Belinelli and Jack—but the Hornets had more poise down the stretch.

Artest's free throws pulled Los Angeles within four with 3 minutes left, but Paul led the Hornets to points on four consecutive possessions, setting off a celebration confined entirely to the Hornets' bench.

Grizzlies 101, Spurs 98

In San Antonio, Zach Randolph had 25 points and 14 rebounds and Shane Battier hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 23.9 seconds remaining to help Memphis win its first-ever playoff game.

Randolph scored nine points in the fourth quarter and punished San Antonio repeatedly under the basket.

The top-seeded Spurs had a chance to force overtime, but Richard Jefferson missed an open 3-pointer as time expired.

Tony Parker led the Spurs with 20 points, but they sorely missed All-Star player Manu Ginobili of Argentina, who continued to rest his sprained right elbow.

The eighth-seeded Grizzlies entered the NBA in 1995 as an expansion team in Vancouver but didn't make it to the playoffs until 2004. They were then swept in the first round for three consecutive years.

Celtics 85, Knicks 84

At Boston, Ray Allen hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 12 seconds left as the Celtics rallied to beat New York in their playoff opener.

New York led 84-82 before Carmelo Anthony was called for an offensive foul for pushing Paul Pierce with 21 seconds remaining. Allen, who led the Celtics with 24 points, then sank the decisive basket from beyond the left arc.

The Knicks had one more chance to win it, but Anthony missed a long 3-point attempt with 2 seconds left. The star forward went 1 for 11 from the field in the second half.

Amare Stoudemire had 28 points and 11 rebounds for New York, and Anthony finished with 15.

Pierce scored 18 points and Kevin Garnett added 15 points and 13 rebounds for Boston.

The Celtics, who won their NBA-high 17th championship in 2008, are aiming to return to the finals after losing in seven games last year to the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Knicks are in the playoffs for the first time in seven years.

Thunder 107, Nuggets 103

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 41 points and Russell Westbrook added 31 as the Thunder pulled out a victory in Game 1 of its first-round playoff series.

Oklahoma City leaned heavily on its two All-Stars, who both scored their most points in the postseason.

Westbrook scored the go-ahead jumper from the right side with 1:06 left. Kenyon Martin then missed a jumper from the left wing before Westbrook struck again to make it 104-101 with 22.4 seconds left.

Raymond Felton missed a 3-pointer with 12 seconds left, and Oklahoma City closed it out at the foul line.

Nene led Denver with 22 points and eight rebounds, and Danilo Gallinari scored 18.

Rookie Steele wins Texas Open by single stroke

SAN ANTONIO (AP)— Rookie Brendan Steele shot a 1-under 71 on Sunday, overcoming relentless wind and fellow first-year PGA Tour player Kevin Chappell to win the Texas Open by a stroke.

The leader by one heading into the final round, the 28-year-old Steele stayed steady throughout the day, and finished at 8-under. He gave a small fist pump, then thrust his arm downward and smiled broadly to celebrate his first Tour victory after holing out on 18.

"I was a lot more calm today," Steele said. "When you've got the one shot lead it's not even your tournament. There's so many guys that could still win with a good round, without you even doing anything wrong, that I didn't feel as much pressure."

The tournament featured the Tour's highest scoring average, 73.665, so far this year and Steele's 280 overall was the highest winning score at the Texas Open since a 283 won the 1934 edition.

Steele birdied the par-5 second hole, dropping his approach from a bunker to within 10 feet of the pin, then bogeyed the par-4 No. 5, leaving a 12-foot putt from the fringe short. But Steele put his tee shot within three feet of the hole on par-3 No. 7 to move back to 8 under.

That's where he finished. Steele, whose previous best-finish was tied for 17th at the Farmers Insurance Open in San Diego in January, could have padded his lead on No. 9 but left a 17-foot putt short. He then missed a couple of other makable birdie putts on the back nine, including one that was 6-inches off on the par-3 16th.

Instead, he settled for 12 straight pars and it was enough to hold off Chappell, who had two birdies on the front nine, then put his second shot to within seven feet on par-4 No. 10 to grab a share of the lead.

Chappell, 24, then stayed tied with Steele through seven holes, but hit his 2nd shot on the par-4 17th well right of the hole and then couldn't make a 10-foot put to save par.

"I'll be honest, I think I just fell asleep," said Chappell, who led UCLA to a national championship in 2008. "I felt the wind was dead into me ... I should have known it was a little left to right."

It was the first time since the 2006 Phoenix Open that two Tour rookies finished 1-2 at a tournament. Another rookie, Charl Schwartzel, won last week at the Masters, making this the first time rookies have won back-to-back on Tour since 2002.

Winds that were a factor all week, pushing drives into the woods and knocking down approach shots, continued to blow strong at 20 mph Sunday—with gusts exceeding 30 mph. But they came in from the south and generally yielded higher scores than those from the north earlier in the tournament.

Tying Chappell for second was Charley Hoffman, 34, who began the day three strokes behind Steele at 3-under, but found the hole from the fairway 52 feet away for an eagle on the par-5 No. 8. He followed that with a birdie on 464-yard No. 9—where Kevin Na had the worst par-4 hole in the PGA Tour record books during Thursday's opening round, shooting a 16 with a nightmarish sequence of shots.

Hoffman just missed a 10-footer to save par on No. 14, but his birdie on 18 moved him back to 7 under and assured him a tie for second.

Nashville-native Brandt Snedeker, 30, had two birdies on the front nine but missed an 8-foot putt on the par-4 11th to slide back to 6 under for the tournament, good enough to finish alone in forth.

Cameron Tringale, who began the day a stroke off the lead, is in his second year on Tour but is 5 years younger than Steele at 23. He had three bogeys on the back nine to offset a pair of birdies and finished tied for fifth at five under.

Also tied for fifth was Pat Perez (71), and Fredrik Jacobson, who finished second at the 2010 Texas Open and had four birdies and a bogey on Sunday.

Players in their 20s have won three of the last four PGA Tour events and four of the last six. A player in his 30s has not won since Rory Sabbatini at the Honda Classic, a span of seven events. Asked about a leaderboard so full of relative unknowns, Steele shrugged.

"The guys who are household names now weren't household names when they started," said the Idyllwind, Calif., native. "You've got to make yourself a household name and you've got to start somewhere."

Steele won last year's Nationwide Tour Championship in South Carolina to earn his Tour card but had never led any round during his previous 11 starts on Tour. But the glare from at least moderate fame is not new to his family - Steele's uncle Anthony Geary plays Luke on the ABC soap opera General Hospital.

In perhaps a rookie mistake, Steele cut his finger on the Texas Open glass and stone trophy while posing with it for pictures after his win. At a tournament whose slogan is "Unappologetically Texan," he also took home a pair of boots which he struggled to pull on.

"Do I get a horse too," he asked jokingly.

Sizemore homers in return to lead Indians

CLEVELAND (AP)—Grady Sizemore homered in his return for Cleveland after major knee surgery as the Indians beat Baltimore 4-2 on Sunday to deal the Orioles their seventh straight loss.

Sizemore, who hadn't played since last May when he underwent microfracture surgery on his left knee, homered in his second at-bat off Brad Bergeson (0-2) and doubled in the fifth.

Carlos Santana and Travis Hafner also homered for the first-place Indians, who have won seven in a row at home and 11 of 13. Fausto Carmona (1-2) allowed just one earned run and five hits in seven innings.

Brian Roberts went 3 for 4 for the Orioles, who have lost eight of 10.



AP

Cleveland Indians' Grady Sizemore watches his solo home run off Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Brad Bergesen in the third inning of a baseball game on Sunday, April 17, 2011, in Cleveland.

Yankees 6, Rangers 5

In New York, Eric Chavez singled home the game-winning run in the eighth inning and the Yankees hit three homers off previously untouchable Alexi Ogando to beat the Rangers.

Robinson Cano, Russell Martin and Curtis Granderson all homered to help the Yankees take two of three in a rematch of last year's American League championship series, which Texas won in six games to capture its first pennant.

Adrian Beltre homered and doubled for the Rangers, who have dropped four of five since opening the season 9-1.

Ogando had allowed just four hits over 13 shutout innings in his previous two starts this season.

Red Sox 8, Blue Jays 1

In Boston, Jacoby Ellsbury hit a three-run homer and Jarrod Saltalamacchia drove in three runs to give the Red Sox consecutive victories for the first time this season.

Jon Lester (1-1) allowed one run, six hits and three walks while striking out five in six solid innings.

Jesse Litsch (1-1), making his third start since shoulder surgery last August, gave up six runs on eight hits.

The Red Sox entered the game with a 3-10 record, the worst in the major leagues.

Twins 4, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Brian Duensing allowed two runs over seven innings and Matt Tolbert had an RBI triple as Minnesota stopped a four-game losing streak.

Duensing (1-0) gave up seven hits, walked two and struck out five.

Tolbert tripled and Jason Repko had an RBI single during a three-run fifth inning against Jeremy Hellickson (1-2), which gave Minnesota a 4-2 lead.

Angels 4, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Dan Haren pitched into the seventh inning for his fourth win of the season and Maicer Izturis had three hits to help Los Angeles complete a three-game sweep of Chicago.

Haren (4-0) joined teammate Jered Weaver as the only four-game winners in the league thus far. The right-hander allowed two runs on seven hits over 6 1-3 innings, striking out six and not allowing a walk.

Rookie closer Jordan Walden got Juan Pierre to pop out to left field with the bases loaded for his third save.

Mark Trumbo added a solo homer in the fourth off Mark Buehrle (1-1), as Chicago lost its fourth straight game.

Mariners 3, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Michael Pineda pitched six strong innings and Brendan Ryan hit a two-run single as Seattle ended a four-game losing streak.

Pineda (2-1) limited the Royals to one run and three hits over six innings. He struck out five and walked four while lowering his earned-run average to 2.33.

Brandon League gave up a run in the ninth on Wilson Betemit's single but got his third save.

Jeff Francis (0-1) is still searching for his first victory with the Royals. He was charged with three runs on six hits, while striking out one in 6 1-3 innings.

Athletics 5, Tigers 1

In Oakland, California, Josh Willingham broke out of a slump with a two-run single and Mark Ellis doubled twice to help Oakland win its second straight at home.

Trevor Cahill (2-0) pitched eight solid innings, striking out a season-high nine batters. He gave up a solo home run to Casper Wells leading off the sixth, but was dominant the rest of the game.

Brad Penny (0-2) gave up five runs in five-plus innings and took the loss for Detroit.

Dodgers 2, Cardinals 1

In Los Angeles, Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Los Angeles Dodgers a victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Kemp homered to center field on the first pitch from Ryan Franklin (0-2). Andre Ethier led off the inning with a double off Trever Miller, extending his major league-leading hitting streak to 14 games.

Jonathan Broxton (1-0) got the win despite giving up a two-out RBI single in the top of the ninth by David Freese.

The victory prevented the Cardinals from getting their first four-game sweep in Los Angeles since 1968.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 5, 12 innings

In Phoenix, Stephen Drew drove in the winning run in the 12th inning as Arizona rallied to beat San Francisco.

Giants reliever Dan Runzler had only allowed one base runner over 2 1-3 innings before walking Justin Upton and Chris Young with one out in the 12th. Javier Lopez then came in for Runzler (1-2) and gave up Drew's grounder to right field.

Josh Collmenter (1-0) pitched two perfect innings for the win, as the Diamondbacks ended a four-game losing streak.

Buster Posey and Pablo Sandoval hit back-to-back home runs in the sixth inning and Aubrey Huff also homered for the Giants, who had their four-game winning streak broken.

Padres 8, Astros 6

In Houston, Will Venable hit a two-run single in a four-run eighth inning to lead San Diego to victory.

Heath Bell got his 38th consecutive save after loading the bases with one out in the ninth. He got the last two batters on a strikeout and groundout.

Trailing 6-4 at the start of the eighth, the Padres got one run on Jason Bartlett's one-out RBI single. Pinch-hitter Brad Hawpe then walked to load the bases before Venable singled to right field off Mark Melancon (1-1).

Ernesto Friero (1-1) pitched 1 2-3 innings for the victory.

Pirates 7, Reds 6

In Cincinnati, Andrew McCutchen opened the game with a homer, then singled home the game-winning run in the eighth inning, to lift Pittsburgh over the Reds.

McCutchen and Jose Tabata started the game with back-to-back homers — only the third time that's happened in Pirates history. McCutchen singled off Logan Ondrusek (2-1) for the winning run.

Chris Resop (1-0) got the win for the Pirates, who had lost five of six coming into the game.

Rockies 9, Cubs 5

At Denver, Dexter Fowler hit a two-out, two-run double in the eighth inning as Colorado won for the eighth time in nine games.

The Rockies sent 10 batters to the plate in the four-run eighth to give them the victory.

Rafael Betancourt (1-0), the fourth of five Rockies pitchers, got the win with two-thirds innings of hitless relief.

Marcos Mateo (0-1) picked up the loss for Chicago.

Nationals 8, Brewers 4, 1st game; Nationals 5, Brewers 1, 2nd game

In Washington, Danny Espinosa followed up a three-run homer in the opening game with a bases-loaded triple in the seventh inning of the second to lead Washington's doubleheader sweep of Milwaukee.

In the opener, Ivan Rodriguez also hit a three-run homer and Jason Marquis allowed two runs and nine hits in seven-plus innings.

Yovani Gallardo (1-1) yielded seven runs on 10 hits to pick up the loss.

In the second game, Livan Hernandez (2-1) allowed one run and six hits and struck out three in seven innings. He retired the first eight batters he faced in his longest outing this season.

Kameron Loe (1-1) came on in relief to start the seventh and gave up Espinosa's triple.

Phillies 3, Marlins 2

In Philadelphia, Carlos Ruiz hit the go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth inning to lead Florida past the Phillies.

Ryan Howard began the eighth by reaching on an error by left-fielder Logan Morrison. Ben Francisco followed with a single off Ryan Webb (0-2) and Raul Ibanez put runners on the corners with a groundout.

Ryan Madson (1-0) tossed a scoreless eighth after taking over for Cole Hamels, and Jose Contreras survived a rocky ninth inning for his third save.

Mets 3, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Josh Thole had two run-scoring singles as the Mets ended their seven-game losing streak.

Dillon Gee (1-0) gave up five hits and a run in 5 2-3 innings to beat Tommy Hanson (1-3).

Atlanta's Jason Heyward hit a homer off Jason Isringhausen in the eighth.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his second save.

Day 2 of NFL mediation ends; talks resume Tuesday

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Negotiators for the NFL and its locked-out players wrapped up a second day of court-ordered talks Friday with no signs of significant progress. They plan to sit down again next week.

The two sides left the federal courthouse in Minneapolis after about four hours of talks, following nine hours of meetings on Thursday. They will meet again Tuesday.

Hall of Famer Carl Eller, who is representing retired players in the antitrust lawsuit against the league, said he thinks the two sides are "moving forward" but the process "slowed a little bit" Friday.

"There is progress, but it wasn't like we're right around the corner," Eller said. "We could resolve it if we had met on the weekend, but maybe not."

U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan, who is overseeing the sessions, assigned some weekend homework, according to Michael Hausfeld, an attorney for the players.

"The judge has asked us to provide answers to over a half-dozen questions that he's asked," Hausfeld said, declining to provide details. "There's a lot of work."

With the 2011 season in jeopardy, Boylan is overseeing this round of talks after 16 days of mediated sessions in Washington failed to secure a new labor pact.

"We need to have some productivity," Eller said. "We need to come out of here with something, and I think that there is a sense of realism on the judge's part. It's not just talk. Just getting together to talk is not productive."

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson, who ordered the mediation, is still considering a request from the players to lift the lockout imposed by the owners. After an April 6 hearing, she said she planned to rule on the injunction request in a couple of weeks—which would mean next week.

Players including MVP quarterbacks Tom Brady and Peyton Manning filed the request along with a class-action antitrust suit against the league. The lawsuit has been combined with two other similar claims from retirees, former players and rookies-to-be, with Eller the lead plaintiff in that group.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, four team owners and several league executives and lawyers left the building without speaking to reporters. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello, via e-mail, declined to comment.

DeMaurice Smith, the NFL Players Association executive director, also refused to talk. He left the courthouse with lawyers and linebackers Ben Leber and Mike Vrabel, two other plaintiffs in the antitrust suit filed March 11 when the last collective bargaining agreement expired, the union dissolved and the lockout began.

Pacquiao sparring looking great—Ariza

By RONNIE NATHANIELSZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



MANILA, Philippines—Pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao sparred eight rounds last week with three partners and, according to his strength and conditioning coach Alex Ariza, looked great.

Ariza handles Pacquiao's workouts at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles while trainer Freddie Roach is in England with WBA light welterweight champion Amir Khan, who will defend his title against unbeaten European champion Paul McCloskey at the M.E.N arena on April 16.

Ariza told the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* that Pacquiao "is doing really, really well." The world pound-for-pound king has been preparing for his May 7 showdown with Shane Mosley at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas.

He said Pacquiao sparred three rounds with welterweight Karim "Hard Hitta" Mayfield (13-0-1, 8 KOs), three rounds with welterweight prospect Shawn "Showtime" Porter (18-0, 13 KOs) and two rounds with longtime sparring partner, lightweight Raymund "Sugar" Beltran (24-4, 16 KOs).

The strength and conditioning coach denied an earlier report on the Internet that Pacquiao had knocked out Porter. "That's not true," he said. "I don't know where anybody got any of that but I can tell you that's not true."

He said Porter was "a great sparring partner and he's still there."

Ariza said Pacquiao has been "in really good shape and I am impressed with his focus, his determination. He is really, really preparing himself for this fight (against Shane Mosley) and taking it seriously. I really like what I see. His weight is back at 153 pounds."

Pacquiao "is big and strong. We've been doing more strength work, plyometrics (a type of exercise training designed to produce fast, powerful movements) and isometrics this week, and in the next two weeks we will see a big and strong Manny," Ariza said.

Meanwhile, three-time world champion Mosley conducted a media day workout at his Big Bear training camp in California and predicted he would knock out Pacquiao.

Mosley said "any round would do but I think the seventh will be about the time I break him down and be able to get that knockout."

He told reporters his energy was at a very high level and that he had "a lot of power in both hands."

"I know Pacquiao will go right to the attack and that is a great advantage for me."

Mosley conceded that it would be a difficult fight because Pacquiao "fires punches from all kinds of angles, is on his toes during late rounds and gives you different looks." But Mosley expressed confidence that "pure power can take over all of that. I know I will be able to get good hard punches onto Pacquiao."

Mosley added that having Naazim Richardson as his chief trainer had been the biggest advantage since he'd "never lost a fight against a Top Rank champion."

RAMSEY

From Page 28

champion in last month's PIC tennis tournament will go for back-to-back titles against Moris Villanueva this weekend. Villanueva took the other finals berth after beating Michael Jones, 6-0, 6-0. Villanueva lost the boys U12 singles crown in the PIC netfest against Ramsey and the former will be looking for vengeance in this weekend's finals.

In the boys U15 singles, four players are still fighting for the championship. Jake Lee and Carl Dela Cruz made it to the semifinals of the upper half of the 16-player draw, while Angelo Jones and Amami Sakano took the two semis tickets in the lower half.

Lee drew a bye in the first round and then topped Chris Cajigan in the quarterfinals, 6-2, 6-2, to force a semis tiff against Dela Cruz. A 7-6, 6-4 win over Seiya Eda and 6-1, 7-5 triumph against Chris Park moved Dela Cruz in the semis.

Jones gained a semifinal entry after scoring victories over Quintin Ramsey, 6-3, 6-4, and Tommy Choi, 6-3, 7-6. Sakano, who drew a bye in the first round, will challenge Jones in the semis after thwarting Daniel Lim, 6-1, 6-0.

The boys U10 singles is also in the semifinal round with Clayton Izuka, Alex Park, Vincent Tudela, and Steven Goodwin completing the Final Four cast.

Izuka gained a bye in the first round and advanced to the semis after an 8-0 triumph over A.J. Hudkins. His semis foe will be Park, who prevailed over Aditya Rai, 8-0, and Joshua Abragan, 8-0. Tudela made it to the semis after beating Lloyd Kim, 8-6, while Goodwin followed suit after an 8-4 win over Haruya Eda.

In the round-robin boys U18 singles, Rafael Jones is unbeaten in two games. He won over Clay McCullough-Stearns, 6-0, 6-3, and Daniel Park, 6-3, 6-4. Christian Miller is the fourth player entered in the boys U18 singles, which will play its remaining games this weekend.

In the U10 mini tennis, four players were given byes and automatically advanced to the quarterfinals. The list includes Sakura Sato, Coume Kaga, Danielle Colombo, and Robbie Schorr. Preliminary and playoff games will be played this weekend with Sean Lee taking on Yna Poquiz, Gillian Villagomez battling Conatsu Kaga, Jeffrey Seo dueling Gang Min Kim, and Jireh Warren facing Steven An.

NMASA

From Page 28

NMASA through Rep. Ramon Tebuteb's pre-filed House Bill 17-112 is seeking for the eventual takeover of the sports facilities in Susupe and though the proposal still sits with the Committee on Judicial and Government Operations, NMASA thinks it is just right to inquire about any renovations or projects related to the sports complex. The CNMI is bidding for the hosting rights for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games and the Ada Gym is one of the major facilities being considered for the quadrennial meet.

For the past several years, the Ada Gym has been having problems with its roofing, ventilation, and sanitation. There were times in the past where games were played while rags were on the floor, covering the wet portion of the hard court. Games also had to be disrupted longer than usual, as referees struggled to find mops to wipe the wet floor. The dirty restroom is a perennial complaint, while poor ventilation also needs to be addressed.

Sasamoto told NMASA that the initial project will focus on the roofing and restrooms facing the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. There is also a plan to fix the bleachers and flooring.

White is hoping a wooden floor will be in place, as this surface is used by most of the gyms in the region. White added he will contact individuals with expertise on facilities and ask for their inputs. He said he will talk to volleyball officials, as the Ada Gym is also used for indoor volleyball games. NMHC for its part is open to NMASA's suggestions and will wait for the inputs.

The Ada Gym is scheduled for temporary closure at the end of this month until September.

CAMACHO

From Page 28

Cal, who collected 638 pinfalls on Saturday.

With Camacho's win, no female kegler has yet to gain more than one monthly plum. Camacho's best score of the week came from her steady performance in the first two games where she tallied 183 and 186 pinfalls. She closed out with 144 and 158 pinfalls in the last two games for an average of 167.75.

The King of the Lanes also has no repeat winner after Jonathan Eparwa topped the weekend field with his four-game total of 827 pinfalls.

Eparwa logged more than 200s pinfalls three times, showing his best form in Game 1 with his 219 pinfalls. He had 213 and 205 in the last two games to go with his 190 in Game 3 for an average of 206.75 pinfalls.

Eparwa won by only eight pinfalls against Raphael Zapanta, who also scored more than 200 pinfalls in three games, but failed in his bid for the April title after posting only 142 pinfalls in Game 3. Zapanta had the highest score in Game 1 with his 239 and then recorded 234 and 204 in Games 2 and 4 for an average of 204.75.

Completing the Top 3 was February winner Robert Talavera, who totaled 805 pinfalls in four games. Talavera got off to a slow start with 190 pinfals, but recovered in the next two games with his 225 and 235. He closed out with 165 pinfalls for an average of 203.75.

In the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament, M.J. Aldan continued his winning streak after prevailing in the April roll-off against four other youth keglers.

Aldan gained his fourth win in a row after carding a four-game total of 575 pinfalls. He won over Nikko Gutierrez (554), Leeanne Yarobwemal (522), John Taisacan (494), and Ryan Batac (451).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA PLAYOFFS LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Howard, ORL	1	16	14	46	46.0
Durant, OKC	1	13	12	41	41.0
Rose, CHI	1	10	19	39	39.0
Bryant, LAL	1	13	7	34	34.0
Paul, NOR	1	11	9	33	33.0
Westbrook, OKC	1	12	4	31	31.0
Nowitzki, DAL	1	7	13	28	28.0
Stoudemire, NYK	1	12	4	28	28.0
Aldridge, POR	1	12	3	27	27.0
Nelson, ORL	1	10	3	27	27.0
Bosh, MIA	1	8	9	25	25.0
Randolph, MEM	1	10	5	25	25.0
Johnson, ATL	1	9	7	25	25.0
Gasol, MEM	1	9	6	24	24.0
Kidd, DAL	1	9	0	24	24.0
Allen, BOS	1	9	3	24	24.0
Granger, IND	1	10	0	24	24.0
Crawford, ATL	1	7	5	23	23.0
Hilario, DEN	1	9	4	22	22.0
Hansbrough, IND	1	10	2	22	22.0

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
J. O'Neal, BOS	6	6	1.000
Gray, NOR	5	5	1.000
Gasol, MEM	9	10	.900
Jack, NOR	5	6	.833
Hilario, DEN	9	11	.818
Ilgauskas, MIA	4	5	.800
Turiaf, NYK	4	5	.800
Battier, MEM	4	5	.800
Maynor, OKC	5	7	.714
Howard, ORL	16	23	.696

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	1	6	13	19	19.0
Camby, POR	1	4	14	18	18.0
Randolph, MEM	1	0	14	14	14.0
James, MIA	1	4	10	14	14.0
Duncan, SAN	1	5	8	13	13.0
Garnett, BOS	1	5	8	13	13.0
Bosh, MIA	1	3	9	12	12.0
Stoudemire, NYK	1	2	9	11	11.0
Artest, LAL	1	5	6	11	11.0
Noah, CHI	1	8	3	11	11.0

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	1	14	14.0
Conley, MEM	1	10	10.0
Rondo, BOS	1	9	9.0
Collison, IND	1	9	9.0
Iguodala, PHL	1	9	9.0
Felton, DEN	1	8	8.0
Westbrook, OKC	1	7	7.0
Rose, CHI	1	6	6.0
Gasol, LAL	1	6	6.0
Miller, POR	1	6	6.0

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	9	5	.643	_
Toronto	7	8	.467	2 1/2
Baltimore	6	8	.429	3
Tampa Bay	6	9	.400	3 1/2
Boston	4	10	.286	5
Central Division				
Cleveland	11	4	.733	_
Kansas City	10	5	.667	1
Chicago	7	8	.467	4
Detroit	7	9	.438	4 1/2
Minnesota	5	10	.333	6
West Division				
Los Angeles	10	5	.667	_
Texas	10	5	.667	_
Oakland	8	8	.500	2 1/2
Seattle	5	11	.313	5 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	10	4	.714	_
Florida	8	6	.571	2
Washington	8	7	.533	2 1/2
Atlanta	7	9	.438	4
New York	5	11	.313	6
Central Division				
Cincinnati	9	6	.600	_
St. Louis	8	8	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	7	8	.467	2
Milwaukee	7	8	.467	2
Pittsburgh	7	8	.467	2
Houston	5	11	.313	4 1/2
West Division				
Colorado	12	3	.800	_
San Francisco	8	7	.533	4
San Diego	7	8	.467	5
Los Angeles	7	9	.438	5 1/2
Arizona	6	8	.429	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 7, Cincinnati 6
Philadelphia 3, Florida 2
Washington 8, Milwaukee 4, 1st game
Washington 5, Milwaukee 1, 2nd game
N.Y. Mets 3, Atlanta 2
San Diego 8, Houston 6
Colorado 9, Chicago Cubs 5
Arizona 6, San Francisco 5, 12 innings
L.A. Dodgers 2, St. Louis 1
Cleveland 4, Baltimore 2
Boston 8, Toronto 1
Minnesota 4, Tampa Bay 2
L.A. Angels 4, Chicago White Sox 2
Seattle 3, Kansas City 2
Oakland 5, Detroit 1
N.Y. Yankees 6, Texas 5

TEXAS OPEN SCORES

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Leading scores Sunday from the Texas Open, a PGA Tour event played at the 7,435-yard, par-72, TPC San Antonio course:

FINAL ROUND

Brendan Steele	69-72-68-71—280
Charley Hoffman	68-73-72-68—281
Kevin Chappell	68-73-70-70—281
Brandt Snedeker	69-72-70-71—282
Fredrik Jacobson	72-75-67-69—283
Pat Perez	71-74-67-71—283
Cameron Tringale	71-71-68-73—283
Charles Howell III	71-73-68-72—284
Keegan Bradley	73-73-71-68—285
Martin Laird	72-74-69-70—285
Scott Stallings	71-73-75-67—286
J.B. Holmes	70-73-72-71—286
Kevin Sutherland	71-70-74-71—286
Dean Wilson	70-72-72-72—286
Brandt Jobe	75-69-73-70—287
Roland Thatcher	74-74-70-69—287
Kevin Streelman	69-76-72-70—287
Hunter Haas	75-70-71-71—287
Johnson Wagner	71-75-70-71—287
Bobby Gates	70-78-68-71—287
Steve Flesch	71-76-68-72—287
Rich Beem	71-70-72-74—287
John Senden	71-74-72-71—288
Brian Gay	71-74-72-71—288
Nathan Green	75-73-69-71—288
Geoff Ogilvy	69-72-74-73—288
Brendon de Jonge	72-72-71-73—288
Martin Piller	70-75-70-73—288
Adam Scott	68-74-70-76—288
Troy Matteson	69-76-73-71—289
Blake Adams	71-74-73-71—289
Ryuji Imada	72-75-70-72—289
Matt Every	73-69-74-73—289
Justin Leonard	73-75-71-70—289
Briny Baird	71-75-70-73—289
Kris Blanks	71-73-73-73—290
Bryce Molder	73-75-70-72—290
Nick O'Hern	73-72-73-72—290
William McGirt	73-73-70-74—290
Kevin Stadler	70-77-69-74—290
Ricky Barnes	73-70-71-76—290
Jeff Maggert	71-72-71-76—290
J.P. Hayes	73-73-68-76—290

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

670 ROLLERS

From Page 28

against Rollers, 36-40, and the Guam Dragons handed the Falcons back-to-back losses after a 46-24 triumph in yesterday's game.

Teams in the U15 division will play in a round-robin elimination with the Top 4 squads advancing to the double-elimination playoffs.

In the boys U20 division, the Dragons are 2-0 after beating the Falcons on Sunday, 47-43, and Rollers yesterday, 62-48. Don Mapote paced the Dragons against Rollers, drilling 21 points, while Neil Apillado added 15.

The Rollers hold a 1-1 card, pending the complete results of yesterday's games, as they won their debut against the Chalan Kanoa Saints, 47-45.

In the U17 division, the Dragons topped Rollers, 46-35, while the Falcons also had a winning debut against the Thunder, 31-27. The Ayuyus are playing in the U17 division, too, and handed the Dragons their first loss, 53-48. The Rollers were playing the Thunder and leading at 16-14 at halftime yesterday.

In the U12 division, the Island Dragons and Rollers split their games. The visitors won on Sunday, 36-25, while the Rollers bounced back with a 44-33 triumph in their second meeting yesterday. These two teams will duel for the title today at 9:30am.

This year's Easter caging is supported by NTT Docomo Pacific, Tan Holdings, Bank of Guam, Office of Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumuro, Rollers Basketball Club, Hoopaholics, BANMI, and Unified Basketball Association.

Round the Crown Bike Race for Japan Relief



Bikers leave the starting line of the Round the Crown Bike Race for Japan Relief.

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Heather Kennedy, front, heads down Capital Hill.



Lewie Tenorio playfully poses for the camera before heading up to Mt. Tapochao.



Three bikers make their turn at the starting and finish line.



Bikers pedal slowly as they leave the starting line at the paved parking lot of Mt. Tapochao.



Bikers listen during the race briefing.



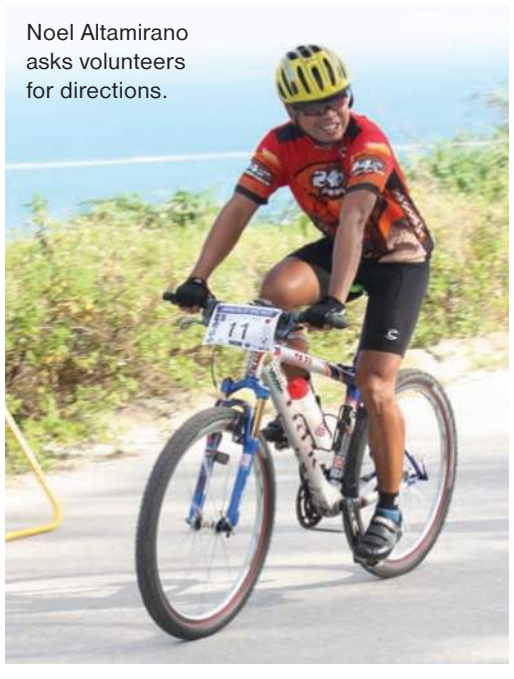
Kimiko Hasegawa smiles as she nears completion of the race.



Ken Pierson slows down as he nears the finish line.



Erico Castro and other bikers head out of the paved parking lot of Mt. Tapochao.



Noel Altamirano asks volunteers for directions.



Saipan Tribune
Sports



670 Rollers, Guam Dragons lead Easter caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

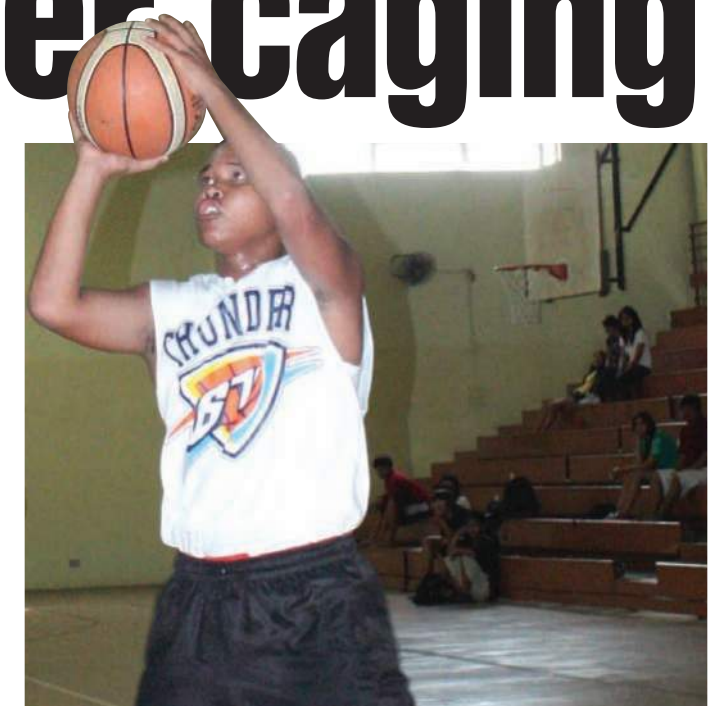
Hosts 670 Rollers and Guam Dragons swept their first two games in the 2nd Annual Docomo Easter Basketball Invitational Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 670 Rollers are entered in the U15 division and won over sister team Rollers on Sunday, 38-31, and against the Island Dragons, 44-43.

Renan Lansang led the 670 Rollers over the Rollers after firing eight points. Against the visiting Island Dragons, Chris Mizer canned two free throws and Darrel Suarez had one charity to lift the 670 Rollers to a one-point win.

Other teams playing in the U15 division are the Guam Dragons and MTM Falcons. The Falcons lost their debut

See 670 ROLLERS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Thunder's Jack Aranda runs into the defense of a Rollers player for a short jumper during their U17 game in the Docomo Easter caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Colin Ramsey gets ready to serve against James Kim during their game in the boy U12 singles division of the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships on Saturday at the AMP tennis courts.

Ramsey nears back-to-back titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Colin Ramsey became the first finalist in the boys singles competition in the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships after notching two victories over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Ramsey advanced to the championship game in the boys U12 singles after downing Michael Ren in the semifinals, 7-6, 6-3. Ramsey also won over James Kim, 6-1, 6-1, to arrange a semis duel against Ren.

The boys U12 singles

See RAMSEY on Page 26

NMASA wants inputs on Ada Gym repairs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association met with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. officials yesterday to ensure that repairs at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will be done the right way.

"We have no intention on interfering or holding up your project. We just want to make sure that proper repairs will be done," NMASA president Michael White told NMHC corporate director Joshua Sasamoto and technical coordinator Clem Sablan.

NMHC initially coordinated the project with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs through the Division of Sports and Recreation, which currently overseas the operation and maintenance of the Oleai Sports Complex, including the Ada Gym.

See NMASA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Australia and New Caledonia players wait for the volunteers to finish wiping the wet floor of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, which was the venue for the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

Camacho, Eparwa top April roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Diane Camacho foiled Gloria Omechelang's bid for back-to-back monthly crowns after winning the Saipan Bowling Association-Budweiser April Queen of the Lanes Tournament over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Camacho owned the Top 2 best scores in the monthly tournament to claim the April tiara. She carded a four-game total of 671 pinfalls on Saturday and then returned for the Sunday roll-off with a tournament second-best score of 666 pinfalls. Bowlers are allowed to compete on both days, but only the higher score is counted.

Omechelang, who won the March roll-off, also bowled on both days. Her 644 pinfalls on Saturday was good for second place. Then on Sunday, she failed to surpass Camacho's record after knocking down only 618 pins and settled for second place.

Rounding out the Top 3 was February roll-off winner Ron

See CAMACHO on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jonathan Eparwa, left, and Diane Camacho pose for a photo after winning the Saipan Bowling Association April roll-offs last weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.